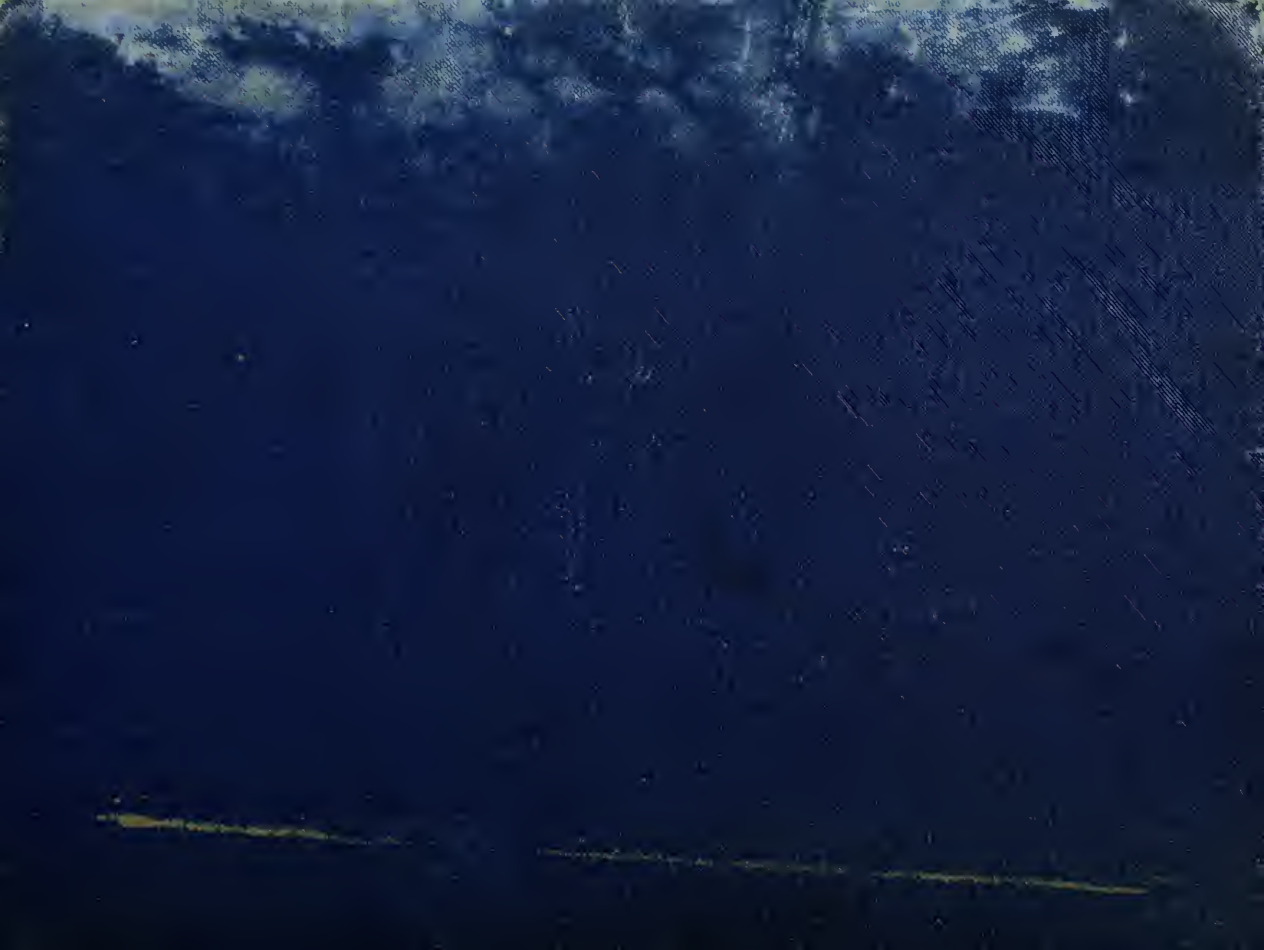

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# THE CASE OF THE. FOX

# THE CASE OF THE. FOX

BEING HIS PROPHECIES UNDER HYPNOTISM
OF THE PERIOD ENDING

A.D. 1950

## A POLITICAL UTOPIA

BY

WILLIAM STANLEY

*Author of "A New Reform Bill" "Notes on the Nebular Theory" "Properties and Motions of Fluids" "Joe Smith and his Waxworks" etc*

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# The Case of The. Fox

## A.D. 1900 to 1950

### CHAPTER I

### The Doctor

I MUST mention in the first place my regret at the loss of the valuable assistance these pages ought to have received from their author, my fellow boarder, Dr. Aerius Pott, from whose copious notes they are compiled. He was compelled to leave England before their publication from circumstances that were inevitable. The doctor, two students, and myself were all the boarders that our good landlady, Mrs. Porwick, could accommodate within her small residence in Bloomsbury. The dear woman, who was a widow of five years standing, was very fond of Dr. Aerius Pott. In her great heart she would have let him continue to live board and lodgings quite free, or even in closer legal alliance with her—but the

money we hungry students paid her would not alone keep the house going, even when supplemented by the small independent income left to her by her dear departed. We had therefore to determine that either we students or the doctor must leave the lodgings, which brought about a crisis. Still I do not think that the doctor was to blame for the unfortunate circumstances in which he was placed for want of money. He told me his father, the gallant Colonel Pott, U.S.A., had a strong desire that he should study the sciences he had devoted himself to in Europe, and that he had paid his passage to England and given him some money in hand to start with. Dr. Aerius Pott said he had every hope of constant remittances from home to continue his studies. He had contracted liabilities on the prospect of these remittances which never came to hand. Seeing the diligence of the doctor in the pursuit of a very interesting science, I must suggest the gallant colonel, his father, was much to blame.

It is necessary for this work to give more exact particulars of my friend the doctor, which I may do while leaving out the strong political element which suffused his mind. Dr. Aerius Pott's special branch of study was hypnotism. On this account we students among ourselves gave him the name of " The Great Hip." He told me that when he first came to this country he brought many introductions to the eminent men in

England in his special study, whose influence he expected would have assured him competency. There is no doubt he ought to have done well here, as there was a large public deeply imbued not only with the value of hypnotism, but with all kinds of spiritualistic ideas, thought-reading, general mysticism and phrenology, which the doctor also professed to elucidate, who were ready with open hands and minds to receive him. Unfortunately for his monetary prospects the doctor was a man of genius, that is to say, a person possessing some ideas of his own. His ideas he assured me he could not hold with sufficient toadyism to others in the field, to ensure success in conjunction with the popular men in his science. Therefore he found himself jealously shunted from all the many profit-making concerns. The Homites and the Wardropean Brotherhood Society would have nothing to do with him.

With what money, as Dr. Aerius Pott asserted, he could obtain for his writings for the spiritualistic journals, and from popular lectures, he had prosecuted his hypnotic science as far as he was able. In his science he informed me he was for popularity compelled both in writing and in speaking to follow the sensational or even imaginative rather than the natural. This was against his inclination, as nervous sensibility, properly understood, explained every apparent mystery therein and was sufficient. He told me

he longed to produce one great work on neuro-hypnotism, which he was sure would pay.

I have not heard anything of my friend, Dr. Aerius Pott, since he left for the States more than a year ago, but many of his friends and tradesmen about Bloomsbury would much like to hear from him.

In parting from us with our landlady's account in his hand he expressed sincere regret for the circumstances which prevented him staying with us until he had completed his great work. He left his most important manuscript in my hands, which was *The Case of Theodore Fox*, with the desire that I should edit it, although it was incomplete by reason of his compulsory departure. He wished me to give over as much of the proceeds, if the publication were successful, as would pay his landlady. He said if she were paid and there were a surplus I should be sure to hear of him again, otherwise he felt the knowledge of his unfortunate private affairs would be a reproach which would not permit him to return to England.

It is not possible to join in sympathy with my friend, Dr. Aerius Pott, which I desire the reader to do, unless we have before us some idea of the character of this learned and deeply read man, and of the purposes of the hypnotic work before us.

First as regards his own title. I feel quite convinced it was not conferred upon him from his knowledge of medicine. My reason for this

is that he always took, when occasion demanded, the most advertised quack pills. Further, after he had consulted a very old edition of Dr. Buchan's *Domestic Medicine*, he referred his complaints to our landlady for advice. I think possibly his title of doctor may have been conferred upon him by courtesy in the States, but as I never saw his diploma, it may have been adopted by himself for the purpose of adding dignity to his profession. One of my fellow lodgers, a very satirical fellow, does not believe that the doctor either came from or has returned to the U.S.A. He thinks he came from the East—his satirical way of describing the east end of London.

Dr. Aerius Pott's great learning beyond political matters was in the allied sciences of Electro Biology, Mesmerism, Clairvoyance, the action of the Odic Force, Animal Magnetism and Hypnotism, which, he assured me, could be partly traced historically away into the remote past. These sciences were certainly known by many of their effects to the Hindoos, Egyptians, Chaldeans, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks and Romans. The priests of these nations were well acquainted, for instance, with the odic force and used it, as a principle, in the laying on of hands and other various passes and motions by which they were able to effect great cures and, what was important, influence in many ways the subscriptions to their temples.

The ancient priests, he assured me, had also means of throwing their most sensitive devotees into deep sleeps by means of hypnotism, in the shades of their temples. Under such influences the devotees and the priests had prophetic dreams, or saw apparitions directing them on important political events and wars. These were of interest and of commercial value, as they were practically sold through subscriptions to the temples, to persons undertaking the great enterprises to which the dreams referred.

The doctor informed me that in later times the possibility of effecting cures through hypnotic influences was fully demonstrated by Valentine Greatrakes in the middle of the seventeenth century. Also in the eighteenth century by Father Gassner of Swabia and Franz Anton Messner of Weil. Dr. James Baird, at the British Association in 1842, gave this science the title of Neuro-hypnotism (*νεῦρον*, nerve, *ὕπνος* sleep). The word "neuro," in the doctor's opinion, is now illogically suppressed. He said we have recently the testimony of the importance of hypnotism in the experiments of Dr. Luys at the Hôpital de la Charité in Paris and in the many Transactions of the Psychological Research Society of Great Britain.

One branch of this great science, the doctor assured me, has proved itself to be most important, that of the elimination of pain in drawing of teeth

and in other most painful surgical operations. Another branch has been carefully examined and found reliable by some most respectable witnesses, namely that of seeing events at the time as they actually take place through a great distance in space. The prophetic branch of the subject which was studied so carefully by the ancients to direct their warriors, prognosticate their future rulers, and other important political matters, has received little attention from modern science, for he could not accept vulgar fortune-telling as science. It was this last prophetic special branch of science that the doctor was studying to bring up to date.

Before going into the case of Theodore Fox, which the doctor held to be a demonstration of his theory, it will be necessary to state the doctor's argument upon which he founded his prophetic investigations, to be able to properly appreciate his work.

It is generally admitted, the doctor asserts, that genius is the result of the activity of an isolated part of the mental nervous system being concentrated upon a special object, by which one person sees, for the time, further into a certain subject of observation than others have done before him. Now, neuro-hypnotism has been demonstrated to have power to give us the means of shutting off the activity of parts of the nervous system which we wish for the time to be inactive.

This permits all the arterial activity of the blood to flow into those parts of the nervous system in which the greater activity is specially demanded for the object sought.

Upon the above stated premises, for our purpose, to attain or isolate prophetic mental possibilities, it becomes clear that we must select the person for our subject in whom the prophetic mental element is probably most highly developed, and then by the power of neuro-hypnotism we must isolate the special faculty or faculties required to obtain our desired object. This is Dr. Aerius Pott's theory.

The doctor assures me that in searching history it becomes clear that the most prophetic utterances have emanated from the most poetical minds. Therefore it is in the poet we are most likely to find the prophet. Further the direction that thought must take to attain the prophetic must be in a historical vein, as the scale of the future must follow in the continuity of the past through the present and onwards. It is under this idea that Dr. Aerius Pott was willing to leave the shores of the United States to study in England. He argued that he could not find subjects for his study among men without any concrete ancestral history, as such men were not imbued through several generations with "the force of the consecutive." Americans were of a mixed race and therefore without race veneration. He said, they

therefore developed only personal selfishness or strove for personal glory. They were new men living only under contemporary ideas. That without ancestral homage they struggled for position and for identification by money making only. He thought therefore he must search for the prophetic, through the continuity of historical instincts, among a race of men who seldom stepped out of the historical track where providence had originally placed them. Therefore he came to England.

For the foundation of the prophetic among the poets the doctor gave remarkable instances, one of which was that of Chaucer's dream of the Great Exhibition of 1851 in London, written about A.D. 1350.

> "As I slept, me met I was
> Within a temple made of glass
> In which there werë more images
> Of gold, standing in sundry stages
> And morë richë tabernacles
> And morë curious portratures
> And quaintë manner of figures
> . . . than I ever saw."

A temple of glass must have appeared an impossibility to an unpoetical mind at the period in which this was written. Glass was then made only in small pieces, but many years earlier it was made in still smaller pieces, or back in Egyptian times in beads only. In Roman times it became much more common, so that every maiden or wife

of the middle classes could afford to buy a small bottle to catch the tears she shed for her lover or husband when parted from him. In Chaucer's time the little bits of flat glass which were then made could only be held together by lead-work to form a moderate sized window in a thousand pieces. His prophetic mind could foresee that man would advance upon his tentative work to a hundred-fold the perfection of his own time, and then what could be so suitable or so beautiful to enclose a large space as sheets of glass.

Then as regards the refined works of art being brought together. Would not the mind of man advance beyond petty fines and taxes on works of talent prevalent in his time? So that ultimately trade would be free and examples of man's most artistic works might be brought together commercially, not as mere exhibits, in any country for the elevation of the taste, knowledge and progress of the people.

The doctor argued that the advanced poetic sentiment went a long way towards explaining the gift of prophecy, and that its most powerful effects would ultimately be obtained by isolation of the prophetic sentiment in the poet through the agency of hypnotism.

When Dr. Aerius Pott had determined to prosecute his prophetic investigations, about six months before he left England, he called at the office of "The New Spiritualist." He made immediate

inquiries of the office boy to ascertain whether the editor was within to consult him upon the subject. In reply he was informed, " Heditor's hout. Won't be in 'is orfis hall day." He therefore wrote a note in the office addressed to the editor asking for an audience. He intended to leave after he thought his letter was placed upon the editor's table. In this note he mentioned that his purpose was not to sell his manuscript, but to seek of him the recommendation of a person of poetic taste, whom the editor might know as a poetical contributor and to whom he thought he should be able to offer part employment. The boy returned immediately, just as the doctor was leaving the door, saying he had made a mistake. That the Heditor was in and would like to see 'im.

After a short conversation with the editor, the doctor described the purpose of his visit, which was to find a sensitive poet imbibed with the historical or prophetic instinct, upon whom he thought he might exert his hypnotic influence for the benefit of science, by discovering for mankind some knowledge of the future.

" As regards a poet," the editor replied, " I had an idea that every third man you might meet in the street believed himself to be a poet. I have only to rummage in my waste paper basket to find a half dozen or so poems, as they are termed, that have come in with this morning's letters. As regards the particular kind of poet you require,

it is possible I may help you. I think the author of *Doomsday Glorified* would be the sort of man. I have printed some of his poems, but they are a little too ambiguous and remote for our subscribers ; and if you can relieve me of his constant importunity by giving him any kind of employment, without offering me any of his manuscript thereon, I should find it a god-send. His name is Theodore Fox, and he is sure to call within an hour or so, as the poor fellow is quite hard up. You may wait below to see him if you will."

This very kind suggestion seemed to answer Dr. Aerius Pott's purpose, and he decided to wait below. The poet that the editor mentioned, being poor, the doctor thought he might permit him to pursue his investigations under hypnotism, within the means set at his command through the kindness of his friends. The doctor said, " Genius falls to poverty in a non-reflecting world."

When Theodore Fox entered the office, Dr. Aerius Pott went up to him at once. There was something in his melancholy expression and seedy look which indicated his evident poetic temperament. After the doctor had made his wishes known, the poet soon produced from his pocket a number of semi-prophetic manuscripts which the learned doctor read over with great delight. There were quite a selection of " Millenniums," " Sigh no more, man," " Hungerless," " Thine

shall be mine," and other poems, all of which were directed futurewards and to the indefinite.

Upon further inquiries the doctor found that the poet Fox, although he was brought up in Clerkenwell, could sing about flowers (not grown in pots), of skylarks, forests, rivers, mighty oceans, and sunsets (he had seen only in pictures, or read of in books), of peace and plenty, and of many other beautiful things he had seldom or never seen or experienced. The poet felt strongly and urged forward, in his poetry (unpublished), all our great political men and women who were struggling to make the human family advance in the direction the poet thought we ought to go. Here was evidently the right man for the prophetic work of the doctor. He offered the poet very moderate terms for his assistance in his hypnotic experiments, which included a meal at every visit to the doctor's lodgings with Mrs. Porwick. These terms were willingly accepted and the séances arranged.

The poet Fox having the ideas of Dr. Aerius Pott fully impressed upon his mind, fell an easy subject to hypnotic influences. The experiments were made very tentatively at first. The doctor informed us that he led the poet step by step under hypnotism through the historical past into the present, and then beyond far into the future.

In the poet's first hypnotic sleep the doctor could only drive him a little beyond reflections upon the present. The poet said at this point,

"Now the world appears to me as an infinite sea, my own sensation in its midst is that of oblivion. There is a horizon beyond, but I myself am absent. Speak only to me of things around me, not of myself."

In the second séance the poet, under hypnotism, spoke upon general matters which presented anticipation with a sort of universality from which no definite prophecy could be defined. His ideas were, however, most decidedly advanced.

After the second séance and others following continuously, the prophetic impulse passed much farther beyond the present, extending to many future years. The last definite period that the poet depicted was A.D. 1950. When he mentally reached beyond this period in the hypnotic state, his utterances were somewhat senile and his voice faltered. It was evident the prophetic instinct of the patient had, at this point, been pressed to its uttermost. The doctor found, however, that at A.D. 1950 the poet's ideas were fairly clear and his descriptions often graphic. He therefore decided to neglect all the intermediate stages and make his records, as far as possible, of this period only.

To keep the poet's ideas constantly upon the most important changes that would occur in the future, the doctor found it convenient to adopt a special method of hypnotism under which he could put relative questions to him, as occasion

demanded, always assuming a continuity of his previous conversation, so that the subjects he desired to be discussed should alone be developed in the poet's hypnotic sleep, and be confined to one future period.

The doctor, when he left England, gave me all his notes on the case of The. Fox with the request that I should bring out the matter from them in as light a form as possible, as the English reading public, he asserted, objected to anything abstruse. He said that they would read in a novel what they would shun in an essay, even from the most learned D.D. He thought the writings of Dickens and Punch had done more to advance humanity than all the philosophical writings of the times, which were read only by a few. The doctor's notes did not agree in any way with his instructions, for they were by no means light.

It is necessary that I should introduce Theodore Fox, as I am to assume the notes were written from his dictation under hypnotism, and I wish them to be estimated, under the circumstances, at their true value.

## CHAPTER II

## The Poet

We must go back to a period six months before the time detailed in the last chapter of the departure of our fellow-lodger, Dr. Aerius Pott, to follow the incidents which particularly concern the poet, Theodore Fox, for the account of the séances for which these pages are written. I may introduce the poet, as he appeared to my fellow-lodgers and myself, just before the first séance with the doctor. The poet was standing in conversation with the doctor opposite our dining-room window, when we entered. A fellow-lodger, Sam Braham, who says he is some distant relation to a former celebrated singer, sang in suppressed tenor voice, "Rags and tatters over the way, under the open sky," pointing at the same time to the poet. "What does the doctor want with that man here at our dinner time?" I asked. "Something's up," the other fellow-lodger said; "we cannot have that bundle of rags hooked on to us at meal times. That's impossible." The doctor appeared to be confused as we

looked steadfastly at him. I saw the hitch, but as I was very interested in the experiments the doctor was about to make, I went up to the poet and offered him a trifle to get his dinner at an eating-house near. I further asked him to call up the same evening, when I thought we could get him together a parcel of our worn clothing, which he accepted with some hesitation, but he came at night to fetch the clothing. The parcel was bulky and somewhat miscellaneous. I may mention one item as a reminiscence of this which occurs at the end of the work, that we all subscribed neckties, so that he had seventeen of them, which were those we did not think to be soiled enough to throw away, but did not intend to wear again. When the poet left with his parcel our good landlady slipped another brown paper parcel into his hand with a gracious smile. She evidently thought she was doing a great kindness. This he found, when he got home, contained seven more of our discarded neckties, so that he had twenty-four in all. Judging from the one he had on his neck he would be set up with this important article of clothing for life.

When the poet appeared the following day, which was at our dinner-table, there was nothing unpleasant in his person or his clothing. I found he looked a much less cowed and a younger man than he did on his first visit, and fairly well dressed. We really felt a little proud of him in the clothing

we had provided ; such is the righteous feeling of those who have performed charitable acts. We were so happy !

A description of the poet may be interesting. The colour of his hair, now he was cleaner, could be clearly distinguished. It was a pale mousey-brown tint. He had clear blue but rather watery eyes, a small socratic nose, a broad forehead with head of shallow depth, a sandy beard, unshaven, and since he was washed he had a rather pinkish tinge in his face—that is for a Clerkenwell Londoner. His figure was thin, possibly from constant want, and he looked rather consumptive. He was about five feet six in height and stooped slightly. I fancy the doctor muddled his intellect with his trials in hypnotism before we saw him, as he appeared to be looking far away when he was spoken to, and cringed to the doctor as though he were quite afraid of him.

The doctor afterwards chatted a little at our meal times upon the advances he was making in prophecy with the poet, but he would not give us many particulars of what he was doing. In the first séances, as before stated, he could get nothing beyond the general and the probable. The poet indicated that the political party in power were seeking their own interest or glory while pretending to work for others. That a little further on—say the next prophetic period—they were found out and the opposite party came into

power, the following party going through the same process, only under another nominal form to the previous one, Conservative or Liberal. He showed also that individual private interests sometimes led to public good, inferring that all the world looked after itself through all appearances. He spoke of the widening of well-known streets in London, the growing shade of trees in places of busy traffic, better lighting and such like matters which were clearly indicated from what had been done, without the need of prophecy. In later séances these visions became more remote and lost apparently much of the direct influences of the present. At this stage the doctor's papers left in my hands permit me to follow the prophetic inspirations of the Poet Fox, which I am editing.

Out of curiosity I asked the poet one dinner time if the hypnotism distressed him, as he appeared to be less logical than at our earlier interviews. He replied that it made him very exhausted, as though he had been a long time at hard mental work. He felt he could do nothing the following day except crawl round with his manuscripts for sale to the publishers. He said he had sold a poem for five shillings, with which he appeared to be delighted. After he had sold it, he had a bit of supper and went home to bed by eight o'clock. I said, "Can you sleep after the hypnotism?" "Yes," he said, "Blessed sleep!"

Sam Braham said, " I think it is all sleep in our lodgings. No life ! "

" Day and Light and Life," the poet replied. " These represent the hopes and pleasures of youth and wealth. Such were my forward visions once."

We did not feel the pressure of wealth very forcibly, a fellow-lodger having borrowed ten shillings of me that very morning, which I could hardly spare, but I suppose we must estimate wealth by degrees. We were wealthy in comparison with the poet, who had possibly no friend who would lend him the price of a dinner.

The poet went on, " Night and Sleep and Death form the grand eclipse and end of all my hopes. The hungry, weary, worn and heart-sick man yearns all the long day for night to bring him sleep, to soothe his many woes. The morning comes ! He wakes again to sad and hopeless day, counts the heavy hours, still anxious that they quickly pass. Longing—sadly longing—he may never wake to wear the dull day through, of broken hopes and dread of cold, unfeeling man. Blessed ! Blessed ! Blessed ! Night and sleep and Death ! " These words clearly indicated that the hypnotic state the poet had been through was very depressing.

The poet's séances with the doctor were twenty in all. The poet, in his prophetic dreams, is said to have reached A.D. 1950 in the seventh séance. The doctor's notes are carried in detail for the latter

thirteen séances only, therefore for the sake of sequence we will term the seventh the first. These séances would have been extended to a greater number had it not been for the circumstances detailed at the beginning of the first chapter. The average notes given by the doctor, as before hinted, are very dull, but they are interspersed with brighter pieces in the poet's own handwriting, which clearly indicates that these séances were revised when the poet was quite wide awake.

The doctor's ideas pressed upon the poet in his hypnotic state were often *destructive* of our laws, sentiments and government, whereas the ideas of the poet, so far as he was given liberty for his inspiration, were largely *constructive*. As they were both disappointed men, they appeared to view the surrounding state from its lowest level with very revolutionary ideas upon it. In fact the doctor particularly appeared in no way to appreciate the perfect laws and good government of this country, under which he was living. This was sad, considering his general intelligence. In some points the doctor and poet perfectly agreed, they were both spiritualists and phrenologists.

When the poet heard that I was about to edit these papers he gave me one of his *Millenniums*, as he pleased to term it, which he said was specially written for me as a kind of preface for the work, being made much lighter than his other work. This follows :—

MILLENNIUM! MILLENNIUM!

The wondrous world ordained to come!
A country world, as it were painted,
Of fruit and flowers in air untainted.
Where pregnant nature into beauty springs,
Yet lends to science still her soaring wings
To ever mount with purpose new,
Hidden mighty forces to subdue.

Wherein the ancient realm of might
Is quite subjected to the laws of right,
Where ambitious wars entirely cease,
And all the world is wrapped in peace.
Where health and vigour rule sublime
Suppressing weaknesses and crime.
The barren heath with culture tilled,
Life with universal love full filled.

Where man in manly strength commands
With care for all. Just, he stands
To guard the right—the true exalt—
Desiring to mend another's fault.
Where fashion's follies are disowned,
And no weak vanities condoned.
Where education and refined arts
With music capture wayward hearts.

Where plenty spreads her copious stall
With wholesome food enough for all.
With domestic bliss, of wife and child
Our leisure hours from care beguiled.
Where refined religions, soothing charm
Protects the soul from every harm.
Millennium! Millennium!
The wondrous world that is to come!

## CHAPTER III

# The Prophecies

## FIRST SÉANCE

GOVERNMENT.—We are now in Paris, my dear Theodore. You promised, when we broke off conversation on Thursday last, you would tell me all about the great changes which led to the glorious sight we have before us in this year of grace 1950 !

The doctor always pretended, when the poet was in the hypnotic sleep, to see before him all the poet described. If he did not do so the poet appeared to be perplexed and hesitated to go on with his description. The doctor in a previous séance to that which I am about to describe, pretended that he had left the United States when he was a little boy—fifty years ago ; that he had been employed in an isolated Government office in North-Eastern Asia ; and that he felt great interest in what had passed in the European States since, as he had now retired to spend his

last days in England. The poet replied to the doctor's question.

THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE.—"As I told you, Paris has now become the capital of the United States of Europe. These States are now united politically somewhat in the manner that the United States of America were at the end of the last century. This union came about after the great universal European demonstration of the people in 1934, wherein it was decided by the votes of delegates from all States that Europe should hereafter be under one government. At the first meeting, after the popular election of representatives from every European State, Paris was selected as the capital. It was held by the representatives that this city was in the most convenient central European position to establish the new States' 'Superior Legislative Assembly.' This selection has proved in every way satisfactory. From Paris we can now reach the most remote parts of Europe in eight hours, travelling in the compound hotel trains either by night or day. London, the centre of the land areas of the world, is still held as the commercial maritime metropolis. It is only three hours' electric train journey from Paris."

"I should like to have more details of the Superior Legislative Assembly," the doctor said, "but before asking particulars of this I should like to know how the difficulties of differences of

languages were overcome. It appears to me that representatives must speak all in one language clearly to be understood, which is difficult for a foreigner."

"There would have been difficulties on this point at the beginning of the century, but with the universal spread of education, every European scholar has been taught English early in life at school, as the most useful and popular language. It was decided that this language should be spoken in the Superior Legislative Assembly as it had become almost universally known all over the world. Even in the commencement of the century (1900) the English language had the widest range of any, and presented in construction the greatest facility for the inclusion of all foreign words of value. It was generally thought by all scholars that it possessed the simplest and most logical grammar and had the widest vocabulary for a universal language. The change required to make it entirely convenient was a total reform in its former barbarous orthography which was done by a section of the Science Academy, so that it has now perfect phonetic orthography, although this is not in the quaint manner proposed sometime in the last century."

"When I was young," the doctor said, "Great Britain held the foremost place in the world: The command of the sea seemed to assure this: In these early days Great Britain spread out and

colonized all parts of the world that were left to the bad government of savages. Her colonies flourished everywhere, whereas other European nations captured such countries and held them by military occupation without any important development of their national resources. Even the emigrants from Germany and other advanced nations of Europe preferred to go to colonies under British rule or to English-speaking people than to those of their own country. Further it is difficult to imagine how it was that Paris became a popular metropolis. The French people were not held to be the most advanced race, many thinking them but a poor vanity always striving for military glory, insulting their neighbours until they lost nearly all the trade their talents could otherwise command. Thus they drifted miserably into debt with extreme poverty among their working classes, and loss of population, so as to be altogether estimated by advanced thinkers as a declining nation."

"Paris is not so much the capital of France as it is the capital of Europe," the poet replied. The purely French element of the nation has nearly died out, that is, the excitable Celtic element. Our present president of the 'Superior Legislative Assembly' or 'States House of Lords,' as it is now termed, is by birth a German. The council of the United States of Europe is composed of Britons, Germans, Frenchmen, Austrians, Hun-

garians, Italians, Spaniards, Russians, Turks, Greeks and other Europeans. We have little jealousy of races now, as the same laws are made for all. Each representative to the European States House of Lords, who must be a qualified person, represents the voices of 500,000 voters, who are men and women over twenty-one years of age, throughout all Europe. In this manner Great Britain, with about fifty million adult voters, sends one hundred representatives. Germany and Austria each send about the same. France and Italy less—all nations in proportion to their population. The whole of Europe is represented by nearly one thousand lords (as they are now termed) who are elected every three years by postal-ballot."

"POSTAL-BALLOT is a new word to me; kindly explain?"

"A national ballot letter is sent to every voter, headed by his or her registered district letters and number. For election this letter must be delivered personally at the nearest post-office if the voter is at home, or by transfer upon request to another post-office if from home. The ballot letter contains the names of every candidate for election in the country. At the back of it there is a declaration which must be signed when the letter is left, in the presence of the postmaster or of one of his legal assistants and an elected townsman, in a private room. It is then sealed

in its envelope cover, which is attached and posted immediately. These envelopes are all alike and are directed to the Election Record Office, which, for Great Britain, is in London. Three days are allowed for election. Every elector may ask for a new form at the post-office when in private audience if he delivers up his old form, so that even if he sells his vote there can be no security for the buyer, should he be corrupt enough to try to influence the voter. The system is simple and needs only a few extra selected clerks under declaration of secrecy to be present at the post-offices every three years at election times."

"This assembly of which you speak, of nearly one thousand lords, must be a rather cumbrous affair," the doctor suggested. "Only one person can speak at a time; many must necessarily be mere dummies."

"It is not found to be so," the poet replied. "It works very well in practice. Except for the election of the president, the chairman or the members of the committees concerned in any day's proceedings of the general assembly, the ministers of the subject under discussion only appear. The lords are divided into twenty committees, each of fifty members, with one special minister to each committee, who take up one department of government only, such as education, trade, religion, law, medicine and health, foreign affairs, agriculture, sea-ports and

fishing, local government, science, art and so forth, who have special days in the general assembly for discussion of new laws or other business. These committees form also into sub-committees and employ many professional clerks and experts. No person can enter a committee without educational knowledge of his special work. When once selected he generally remains in office many years, being subject to re-election. A novice on a committee may speak on any subject, but may give no vote for the first year of office. The separate national government of every country advises the persons suitable to be its representative lords of any special department, so that all the various interests may be supported. A man of wealth cannot be a representative unless he has attained the college title of doctor to make him educationally eligible for election. Each committee elects its own president and secretary, who may afterwards, as minister, represent the committee on the general council. These are always eminent men. The committees report to the general assembly all their work, which is afterwards legislated upon. Every new law must be accepted by a special committee upon the subject at issue before consideration by the House of Lords.

" The president of the European States' House of Lords always presides over the Central Council, which consists of the ministers, presidents and secretaries of the twenty committees. This coun-

cil has, therefore, sixty members, who make a concrete decision upon the motions placed before them. The president nominally receives all petitions from every country, which are examined by the special committee on the subject. He may direct such petitions to the consideration of the whole House or to a special committee, if it is of sufficient importance for either. He performs the amicable functions, entertains the presidents of the European States' parliaments and other eminent men whom business or pleasure may bring to the capital. He unveils statues, opens museums, lays foundation stones and generally strives to unite all nations in good feeling towards each other for their mutual advantage. He is always a man of mark, elected by the Lords in full parliament assembled. His office is terminable on the first day of the Spring Assembly, March 1, but he is eligible for re-election. The present president has held office for four years, and being popular he will certainly be re-elected. Should he die or resign office within a few years he will probably be succeeded by the vice-president, who is an eminent Englishman."

BRITISH GOVERNMENT.—"How are hitches over local affairs avoided," the doctor demanded. "A man in Constantinople cannot tell the most suitable conditions, say for persons in Ireland or Lapland?"

"Communication is rapid," the poet replied,

" and knowledge has become general. I did not intend to infer there were no local governments. These have developed since early in the century, with many reforms, so that a man may take interest in the things about his home whereof he has the most knowledge. In Great Britain you have still the national representatives in the old Houses of Parliament. The national representation, that is the ' Commons,' now consists of four hundred members who are elected by the fifty millions or so male and female voters, by postal ballot. Every voter votes for whom he pleases without any restriction to locality. No person can be elected as member of parliament unless five hundred of his followers who are voters place their own signatures upon his official nomination paper, for which there is a kind of local election. A certain day is fixed as the limit of time for the delivery of the nomination paper to the Election Record Office. There are generally about twelve hundred nomination papers sent in. An alphabetical and numerical list of nominees, with their professions and qualifications, is printed, with the name and number, occupying five lines. This is bound in pamphlet form and issued to every voter by the Election Record Office. After an election the four hundred who have attained the highest number of votes are the selected members of parliament. If there should be two of the lowest numbers selected

they are both members, so that the parliament consists of four hundred and one members until a death or other unforeseen circumstance occurs. Otherwise, during the three years for which parliament is now elected, when a death occurs the person with the next highest number on the list is selected to make up the four hundred. Under this general elective system the House of Commons is of very different constitution from what it was formerly; there are few very eminent men excluded. About half the House are now scientific men devoted to the progress of humanity. The know-little old country gentleman, the place-seeking lawyer and the dandy-colonel who has not seen service are scarcely evident.

"The British House of Lords has now been replaced by the Senate, to which a number of members are elected every year, as vacancies by death occur; half the number being taken from members of the House of Commons and the other half by selection by the British president and his council from persons of note in science, literature, art and trade to make up the fixed number of three hundred. Every member of the Senate is elected for life. The parliaments select their own council and president, who take the initiative in all law-making for the country, subject only to the order of the States' House of Lords."

"It is difficult," the doctor said, "to understand how such a loyal government as that of Great

Britain should have become republican even if this country were degraded to a ' State of Europe,' as you say."

" You must recognize that Great Britain has been practically a republic for more than a century, the prime minister of the time being actually the president. It is not really greatly altered now. The heir to the throne under the old regimen would now have been king, but he has been elected president, with about the same limited authority a king or queen had formerly. This form of loyalty will continue as long as the people desire it. Our present state vice-president, who is president of the Senate, performs exactly the same functions as the prime minister of the past, and is in the same degree sensitive to public opinion for the maintenance of his position. There is no objection to our calling the president ' king ' or ' president-king,' which is more general now. The same rule for titles is followed in western Russia and in Sweden. A name does not change a function and one term may be more agreeable to a people than another. Further, royalty, while we still adhere to it, is strengthened by the approbation shown in the public election of our president-king.

" Laws are made and finances administered by national parliaments as before, and every country is responsible for its own duties. Every important law is submitted to the European

Legislature (the States Lords) before it is confirmed. This is not a serious matter, as it is sent in the abstract only, and considered by a sub-committee, with the assistance of qualified clerks. The object of this Lords' veto is that no law shall be made that can in any way interfere with practical education, equality of commerce or freedom of trade in Europe. There is really very little risk of this. Reform is now being suggested with the object of saving the time taken by certain references to the States' Government which, by usage, have become quite formal. We still advance.

"For local affairs we still have the borough and county councils. These are quite reformed. They have limited local taxing powers given them by parliament, as for instance, London has again its port dues from wine, spirits and tobacco, the consumption of which has rapidly decreased of late years. These taxes give means of making great improvements in our metropolis just as they did in part of the nineteenth century under the London Local Government Board. No one feels these taxes, and every one rejoices in the great improvements, for which they supply funds. The fund employed in carrying out such improvements gives also work for our labouring people in the winter time."

LADY ELECTORS.—"You spoke of the European State House of Lords and our parliament being

elected by men and women," the doctor said, "I assume by this that men and women have equal rights. This was a burning question early in the century."

"As electors, women have now equal rights with men," the poet replied. "There is no reason they should not. As to the elected there may be objections. The States House of Lords is of men only. Women have for a century past fully proved that their intellect is on a par with that of men, and it is desirable in every way that they should be equally represented. Really we have only to look to history to prove that this was always so. There is no doubt of the high political talent of the queens Semiramis, Nitocris, Hatepsu, Deborah, Artemisia, Zenobia, and our own queens Boadicea, Elizabeth and Victoria the Great.

"This does not say that a man and a woman are equally adapted to ordinary active business affairs of life. Sensible women see this as well as men do. A woman who fulfils the function of her being, as a mother of the future race, finds that with maternity there is incapacity for active business life in daily continuity, which is necessary in official work. Where the mother rears the child up to perfect manhood or to virtuous womanhood under her influence, is not her work one of the greatest in the economy of life? But all this should not disfranchise her from the vote her natural talent demands.

" There are women now, as heretofore, who think more of public life than of home, and who have special talent for this life. These are admitted to all governing bodies except the States' House of Lords. In our British House of Commons there are at present (1950) eighteen ladies, and I have no hesitation in saying they are of great value to the country, as there are many laws—sanitary, social and others that particularly concern their sex.

" In the British Senate at present we have only five women but there also their presence is valuable. Besides which their spirited conversation relieves the prevailing dulness. In local government they were already justly admitted in the last century without any inconvenience. The influence of the ladies appears at present to increase, and as they are all electors, their election depends very much upon themselves, but they are divided in opinion as to whether the public or domestic is the more dignified position for womankind."

" In the beginning of the century the British Lion was represented as a vigorous, powerful sort of creature," the doctor said. " One can hardly imagine how his government became associated with the Lioness. Details might be interesting."

" I think the advent of the ruling woman in all positions of life from high to low," the poet

replied, " was quite pronounced at the commencement of the century, and every one could clearly see her power would increase with time. If you would like the details of the advent of woman becoming an electress to the House of Commons, which ultimately secured her position in all other offices of state, I will sketch part of it, although it is long past. It was important at the time (1920) in that it caused the fall of a fine Conservative government.

" A bill was brought into the House of Commons in the session of 1920, as I remember, by a Radical member, in which it was proposed that a woman of over twenty-one years of age should henceforth become in every sense equal to a man as an elector for members of parliament.

" In the discussion on the bill, Mr. Ball Flower, on behalf of the Government, argued : ' A woman would be sure to be influenced by any nice fellow to give her vote as he wished. Under this condition she would practically have no vote. Her nominal vote would be just the same as the man's vote, strengthened proportionally by numbers only. The result would therefore remain as at present. I cannot see, under the circumstances, the value or the dignity of dragging women into the bustle of political life, which would be practically to no purpose, and perhaps would make them cross.'

" Mr. Dilkey Dilkey (Radical) said in reply :

'I can find no better argument for the equal privileges of woman as an elector than that given by Mr. Ball Flower, for if the woman's vote could make no difference in the status of the ruling powers, it could do no harm and it would act as a consolation to her by showing respect for the gentler sex in the distribution of political power. As to the other part of the argument, that is, the influence of a man over a woman's vote, I shall be happy to hear of such cases. I do not think, so far as my own experience goes, that woman would be entirely ruled by man, or at any rate I must say that if a man could rule a woman he must be a clever fellow, and the superior influence of a clever man upon this House would be in every way a great advantage at the present time. If the woman ruled the man by her superior cleverness and directed his vote in important matters this would be equally advantageous to the State, as we should still possess the ruling influence of the superior factor. I cannot but think that Mr. Ball Flower has not consulted his amiable wife on the subject or his expressions in public would be very different.'

"The bill to admit women passed the first reading by a small majority after a very lengthy discussion. It was thought it might be lost upon a second reading, but to every member's surprise, it passed the second reading with a very large majority. This showed the presence of home

influences after the members' wives had had time to discuss the bill *in camera* with their husbands, between the intervals of the first and second readings.

" There were many amendments proposed on going into committee on the bill. Mr. Henfield proposed that henceforth women only and not men should be electors for members of parliament. This was lost by a small majority. The Act finally passed without much modification of the original motion, and a new election was immediately demanded.

" In the following year ladies were admitted into the Houses of Commons and Lords (the present Senate), with good effects upon our government as before stated, of which from their eloquence we have very lengthy reports.

" At the present time (1950) a ' Ladies' Popular Government Society ' has been formed with the proposed object of taking all government affairs over to their own sex. They gain an increasing number of votes every year in parliament, but the motion is by no means universally popular. Even the ladies of the society recognize that their object may take a long time in fulfilment. It really cannot be necessary, as it is evident that the ladies have now advanced in virility in about the same ratio as the men have approached perfect effeminacy, so that there becomes no doubt of the equality of the sexes in physical and govern-

ing power. May we not now ask, ' Where is the woman of the past ? Has she not been raised altogether above the vulgar order of mammalia ? Look at our present perfect babydom disguises, our new sleep-inducing baby foods, our artificial mothers, and self-acting baby nursing and washing machines. Should we not now demand of scientists that they give us a new zoological ex-mammalian order all to ourselves ? "

There were some advanced infantile appliances given in the poet's descriptions which the doctor was unable to conceive, otherwise he felt annoyed with the assertion that manly vigour of mind should diminish in the future. He felt quite sure we should advance in all directions. He tried to press for more details without success. The poet appeared to be lost in the subject and became incoherent, as it were, in a mental haze. He replied in a way quite usual with him—

> And now all objects seem to blend,
> And darkness, as a veil, spreads o'er
> The pictured scene, and life has gone
> To silent sleep or happy death.

This clearly indicated that the poet's mind was fatigued with the subject discussed. The doctor therefore woke him from his hypnotic sleep, thereby completing the séance for the day.

## SECOND SEANCE.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PARIS.—"As we are still in Paris, my Theodore, I should like to go over the new buildings in which the States' Government is held."

"It stands before us," the poet replied. "This grand range of buildings fills the place of the old palace and the gardens of the ancient Tuileries. This was thought to be the finest public place in Europe, but you will note the great change that has occurred during this century. Observe as we walk towards the 'House of Lords' the groves of statuary standing among the ornamental trees and shrubs extending along the whole length of the Champs Elysées to the Arc de Triomphe of the first Napoleon. You may note that in these statues there is now no national distinction of the persons they represent. We have here Chaucer, Dante, Shakespeare, Cervantes, Corneille, Racine, Molière, Goethe, Schiller, Richter, Byron, Longfellow, Emerson, Dickens, Dumas, Lamartine, Tennyson, and a host of others. This is called the literary avenue. Then we have the political avenue, in which you will find, among others, our old popular friends Lincoln, Gladstone, Disraeli, Thiers, Bismarck, Mazzini, Cavore, Giers, and other great men who ruled the destinies of the world in the last century, and further on the new men of this century. There is also the science

avenue, with Bacon, Descartes, Newton, Lavoisier, Davy, Faraday, Helmholtz, Whetstone, Pasteur, Crookes, and others. Then there is the art avenue, with Leonardo da Vinci, Michael Angelo, Raphael, Bellini, Van Dyck, Holbein, Rembrandt, Reynolds, Turner, Millet, Leader, etc. Also the travellers' avenue, with Marco Pole, Columbus, Cook, Livingstone and others since. You will find there are statues here of all the great men whom we believe to have advanced the world's civilization."

"The royal personages," the doctor asked. "What has become of them?"

"Yes! we have a grove of the former great rulers of the world. I forgot to mention them, as they are less popular than formerly. The intelligent man counts the events of history now only by its intellectual progress. Therefore the influence of the prestige of ancient ruling families gradually disappears as we advance in science. From olden times we know of such personalities as Homer, Herodotus, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Virgil, Horace, and other great men who have advanced humanity, but as to the rulers of the times in which they lived we generally forget who they were. A country can only be great by its intellect. The land of Shakespeare, Newton, Davy, Faraday, and Darwin is greater by the influence of those names than by those of royal personages who have ruled it. These royal per-

sonages have served their purpose when national concentration was necessary. Carlyle says, 'The true sovereign is the wise man.' You may tinsel over or electro-plate a coin or a man and call the thing a sovereign, but the plating must all wear off in time and show the base metal, if such it be.

"We may, however, acknowledge, in deference to our royalty, that at the beginning of the century the Royal British Government was the representative of the greatest liberty to the subject in the world, much beyond all common people's governments. The British Government did not ask of any nation a privilege over others for their own nationality. Every foreigner was free to live and import his home-made goods into Britain without any special tax or surcharge upon his people's work. This while it gave a strong impulse to the union of people of all nations, gave also evidence that under the prestige of royalty liberty could be well assured. The royal family, therefore, did not necessarily fall into the background, if we may so express it, through any disrespect. The people recognized that they had served their time when it was only necessary that nations should be strong by unity. The royal family have their estates, and are still honoured and welcomed in public affairs. It is their special privileges only that have passed away, where they are not re-elected as men of ruling mind who are willing to devote their time

to human good. The royal statues remain, as formerly, as historical monuments. Kings and Queens must always hold their place in history, which is the tale of our life's direction in the past."

European House of Lords.—"We will now continue our walk, and go over the building of the United States of Europe House of Lords, as you wished.

"You see, far above the heads of the surrounding statuary and the beautiful gardens at our feet, the building before us. It is entirely in the finest Pentalic marble, with its stately dome and pillared spire. This grand building was the design of an eminent French artist and a Belgian architect. It was selected, through competition, by a committee of the greatest acknowledged artists and architects in the world. The marble work was done by Italians and Greeks, our ancestral artists. The bronze work was partly by a Frenchman. Many of the bronze reliefs came from Munich. The builders were a Scotch firm. The electric lighting was by a Berlin firm. This building is pronounced by all to be the most magnificent the world has yet produced. It has taken fifteen years to complete, and is only just finished. We will enter the porch which leads to the Central Hall.

"This Central Hall is thirty metres in clear diameter without the colonnade, which surrounds the interior extending the diameter to fifty metres.

There are porches round the interior leading to twenty spacious suites of committee rooms, with their offices. These radiate from the centre of the hall to right and left of the entrance. The statuary subjects over the porches are emblematic of the work of each special committee to which the entrance leads. Opposite the grand entrance you observe a short, wide corridor decked with groups of living flowers. This leads to the States House of Lords and its spacious offices. You may notice what appear to be paintings decorating the walls. These are formed of small tesseræ which are imbedded in cement. The tesseræ are ground off to surface and then polished to a pleasant brightness exactly resembling oil paintings. They may be considered as immortal works of the great artists who did them, as it is certain that, if they are kept from exposure to the elements, a thousand years will in no way dim their primitive beauty.

"The present building, comprising the hall, with its surrounding committee rooms and offices, occupies an area nearly circular in form of over a thousand metres in diameter. The States House of Lords protrudes beyond this as a separate oval building. We may pass through the buildings, now the parliament is out of session, to see the beauty of the internal decorations."

"The chamber of the States House of Lords is a magnificent elliptical interior of forty by thirty

metres. It is surrounded by groups of four each, of modified Corinthian columns in pink polished granite, the capitals and bases of which are plated with pure gold, which has now become a common metal for high class decoration. The walls behind the columns are niched and panelled with pale blue granite framework, and fretted gold inlaid panel-work, with mixed gold and dark grey marble work mouldings. The interspaces between the columns are niched in the blue granite borders with subjects in high relief carved in white marble, which are supposed to be representations of the separate states of Europe. These are continued all round the chamber below the windows, which are of stained glass in ornamental gold-plated frames. The elliptical domed ceiling is supported by ornamental ribs in pale grey marble with gold mouldings. These rise in pairs from each group of columns. The interspaces of the ribs are pannelled in white marble carved in high relief, with gold mouldings and enrichments. The outside border of the floor beyond the heavy carpet covering is in hard glass mosaic. The entire woodwork is in mahogany, with enamelled panels of Renaissance designs and gold mouldings. The seats and desks are beautifully carved, the leatherwork being of crimson Russian skins. We could scarcely conceive of such splendid decoration as this at the beginning of the century.

" Returning to the porch by which we entered, we see the grand range of exterior buildings before us extending on each side of the central avenue from the Central Hall past the Place de la Concord and through the Champs Elysées. There are here one thousand apartments for the Lords provided by the States. Each apartment consists of a suite of rooms. The Lords, on election, make a declaration that they will remain in Paris during the terms of session, and attend regularly to the business of our United States. At intervals in the residential buildings you may notice a grander class of public buildings. These are the special libraries devoted to works relative to the subjects and duties of each committee:

" In the range of buildings there are also general reception rooms, music and dancing rooms, theatres, and so forth, with moving floor connexions. Besides which, on the side of the States House of Lords next the Louvre, there are the special reception rooms of the Lord President. On important functions the whole of the Louvre, now much enriched, may be lighted and thrown open for an evening assembly.

" For general convenience the State Lords in session can dine in any of the public dining-rooms attached to the House. The whole arrangement is on the club system, so that it is indifferent where food is taken by the Lords and officers. No money passes.

" The sittings of the States Parliament are held twice a year, for three months each sitting. The State allowance for a Lord is only five thousand pounds a year, with rooms free. The Lords have generally a large private income. There are many of the old nobility and some formerly crowned heads among them. The salary given is supposed to clear the most limited expenses for the two terms of a poor lord and his family during session. There are many very learned men States Lords, with no other income."

UNDERGROUND TEMPERATURE FOR HEATING.—" You may have noticed the perfect health of the growing flowers and the even temperature of the entire legislative buildings. This is interesting, as it is the first attempt that was made to utilize underground temperature on a large scale for surface heating. Below the Central Hall we have a large, deep Artesian well (one thousand metres deep, I think). The centre vaults under the entire hall have been sunk to the depth that the water rises to a temperature of 40° Centigrade. The whole space above this is built over with arches. The building we are in has a non-conducting floor, that is, air and water proof except at the gratings, against which the heated air is blown from over the surface of the interior Artesian water. This warm air can be quite shut off in the summer time, and refrigerated air dispersed in the building in its place by the electric

fans. In fact, by setting the index of the dial we see before us at the base of the group of statuary in the centre of the hall, the whole building can be heated or cooled automatically to any agreeable degree of temperature we desire. We could descend to see the particulars of the mechanism of this heating arrangement, which costs nothing for maintenance as regards the temperature, but no doubt there are other matters more interesting to you."

Republican Governments.—"Some days ago you spoke of the Republic of the United States of Western Asia," the doctor said. "In the beginning of the century we had only the United States of America as an incorporation of governments. It was thought by men of high political intelligence that the Republican principle of government was not entirely successful. In taking the majority entirely for representation, no selection could be made of the highest intellects; so that the actions of the republican governments, influenced by the lowest grade of humanity, were generally paltry, often unjust, and sometimes bumptious and unfriendly, and never widely humanitarian. One could hardly anticipate that the republican principle of government should supersede the far greater liberty of a limited monarchy, where the absolute ruler, that is, the prime minister for the time being, held his office from day to day entirely sensitive to public opinion. A limited monarchy

was certainly the most liberal and progressive form of government for the individual, known at that time."

"It has been the constant drift of intelligence in man," the poet replied, "that we should be ruled by fairness. That the individual, *per se*, should stand out as a unit of equal importance in all state affairs. Every privileged class has now been broken down. Man can lord it over his fellow man now only by superior manhood, that is, by higher intelligence which overrules ignorance. What you speak of in early republics were the first rough mixtures of men poorly educated. Education refines, and veneration comes from this refinement. The ruling mind necessarily takes the ruling position at all times. It is not now taken by birthrights or by deputy. Without the republican principle in its present form we might still have war excited for the purposes of ambitious rulers. A refined republic ensures peace and unity. Look at the advance of our present century to this 1950. There are now only eleven important states in the world: The States of Europe; the States of South Western Asia, which include India, Persia, and Arabia; the States of Eastern Asia, which include China and Japan; the State of Northern Asia, formerly Russia; the three States of Africa, viz., North, Central, and South; the States of North America, which now include Canada and Mexico; the States

of South America (now termed Columbia); the States of Australia; and the States of the Indian Archipelago (now States of Archipo). These States are all seeking their own development without selfish interference with each other. The old United States of North America, which includes Canada, is now perhaps the foremost, from its long establishment. Then follow the United States of Europe, Western Asia, Eastern Asia, Northern Africa, Central Africa, and Southern Africa, Southern America and Australia. Except the few islands which are colonized, we have no other governments. All these states have quite enough work at present to keep themselves in internal order without interference with other states. The advantages of free trade, a perfect myth to the selfish, uneducated man of the past, is now understood from the evidence of experience in Great Britain for nearly a century, so that now there is fully established a mutual friendliness among nations and a cordial interest in each other's general advancement."

To the next question the poet fell into rhyme on generalities, which always indicated that his mind was fatigued with the subject discussed.

Our progress is evermore
  That which is great alone lives.
The past is but the open door
  That leads to all the present gives.

## THIRD SEANCE.

TAXATION.—" In reply, Dr. Aerius, to what you asked me with regard to taxation :—The taxation of all nations within the European States is as nearly alike as practicable, all taxes which have not a local object being subject to the veto of a committee of the States Lords. It is not necessary that every State should have laws alike in detail, neither are their demands equal. Every nation has its special wants and sentiments, which within a certain range it is at liberty to develop by the aid of limited taxation, for which each separate nation is responsible. There are, however, certain general taxes established throughout the European and some other States.

" The principal general tax is that upon incomes. This is levied upon a family or a man or a woman living separately, according to income under special conditions. The amount of the tax is from two to ten per cent. on incomes over four hundred pounds. An income of five hundred pounds pays two per cent. ; on one hundred pounds, if the man or woman is single and in health, that is, two pounds, but if married, twenty per cent. less, that is, equal to thirty-two shillings of our old money. If there are children a further reduction is made of five per cent. for each child. For an income of one to five thousand for a single man or woman the tax would be three per cent. less than

upon four hundred, and so according to scale. The extreme rate of tax for a single millionaire is ten per cent., or equal to £100,000 per million, but this is reduced in the same proportion as others if the possessor is married and also if he has a family. There is also a general allowance in large and small incomes for sickness, maintenance of parents, losses, and other contingencies too complicated to follow into detail but valuable in practice.

"Another popular tax is the 'Idlers' Tax' of two per cent. of income levied upon all persons not invalids under fifty-five years of age, who do no private or public work regularly, except travellers, who are excluded. To avoid this tax a return of occupation must be made openly, to be certified by the local public assessor. We have few idlers now. There appears to be a great shyness of paying this tax, except by the fops, who are being yearly more shunted from good society, along with all the host of hair-dyers, face-enamellers, nail-trimmers, and poodle-shavers of the big, vain world of the past. Work alone is now held to be honourable.

"The separate states retain the collection of uniform taxation, and make their taxes for local purposes. The greatest scheme enacted at present is that for the restoration of all the land of the State so that it may become public property. The redemption money comes from a death tax and a

permanent land tax, a heavy tax being put upon uncultivated land laid waste for private enjoyment. When the present local land taxes have secured the restoration of the land to the country, nearly all other taxes may cease *pro tempore.*"

"Without discussing the land tax or the death tax, of which I hold an opinion, I cannot say that the income tax was very popular in Great Britain when I was young. It was thought to be very inquisitorial and very difficult of honest collection. I do not see its superior object now."

"If we could establish a single tax that is fair in the place of many taxes, I would suggest that every one should pay it willingly, from its being his proportion of the maintenance of the States' government of which he is a benefactor. It is also well that a taxpayer should know the exact amount he pays. If the State puts its hands into our tea and sugar and practically abstracts a part, or makes a tax upon all we wear or care for, as many countries formerly did, it is in a certain way stolen from us. Why should we not be manly, and see what we pay? In the last century the collection of small taxes in some states used to cost in Custom Houses, Excise, Coast Guarding, Police and dandy officialism in many cases as much or more than the tax realized, so that we paid our tax without any public benefit, and had our personal liberty and the liberty of trading in every way restricted. The collection of the single in-

come tax is at present relatively simple to that of the former joint collections, and employs very few persons, considering its amount. The assessor or his assistant has authority to ascertain our income, and the amount of tax, that we pay now openly as our right, which is readily calculated with fairness. It is in no way more necessary to make it a public matter than it is to make our account at our bankers public."

"Early in the century there were nations that taxed every article of foreign manufacture, including all works of Art, Science, and Literature; in their ignorance limiting the means of learning and losing the value of modern thought and the beauty of modern art work which could be procured only from artistic nations. Travelling in such ill governed countries one saw only stiff, machine-made articles in the people's homes, without any conscientious hand work of the true artisan."

"This has passed entirely away," the poet replied, "and the skill in art of all true workmen is now duly appreciated.

"As to the integrity of an income tax being increased in rate proportionately to the wealth of the individual, no one doubts the fairness of this at present. Wealth consists only in the extent of occupation of the earth's surface, and of the products of labour, carriages, furniture, and dress. Why should an individual possess or

inherit this without any sacrifice on his part for the general good ? Wealth always accumulates wealth. Many streams unite to form great rivers. Should not we who own the world, by the right of human birth, place public water-wheels in public streams as taxing powers to utilize some of the force for public good ? "

" Early in the century, particularly in the early republics, money alone was worshipped. Now, with our educational advance, the millionaire is no longer great. The man or woman of superior intellect has become so. With honest public spirit the luxurious home is less thought of than our general public social happiness. Art galleries, grand social assembly rooms, gymnasiums, and the various schools of thought, learning, and refined amusement fill up our entertainments, where inane boredom, empty vanity, and foppery in dress as attributes of wealth formerly prevailed. The man alone is now great, not being made so by his surroundings."

Military Matters—Peace.—" At the end of the last century the Governments of Europe spent a large portion of their incomes in preparations for aggressive and defensive warfare," the doctor said. " Some nations drifted constantly deeper and deeper into debt and ground their peoples down to abject poverty to support the inhuman purposes of war. Did this spirit continue ? "

" The thought of bloodshed chills my heart,"

the poet replied, " and war to me is violence. I have no sympathy with the man—

> Who scars the world and makes it gory,
> And dares exult and call this glory.

Now in 1950 in the United States of Europe we have no need of soldiery as we have no international jealousies that violence could satisfy. We have nothing left of the word *military* but drill, as child's play in our schools to keep our bodies healthy—with no thought to destroy them.

" At the last universal convention of the States of the world in 1930 it was decided by a unanimous vote, which represented the opinions of the representatives of all nations fully assembled, that humanity must now be considered to have advanced beyond the period when *might* could be held as *right.* Further, it was decided that only in very extreme cases homicide could be justified. Under these conditions a soldier who gave up his conscience, to be ordered and directed to decide international quarrels by murder of his fellow man, could be looked upon only as a hired assassin.

" These decisive votes of the Universal Convention brought about gradually the entire disembodiment of all national troops, when national pride had become a little lowered. The immense income, formerly produced by taxation, when no

longer employed for military purposes, appeared to place everybody in a higher position. After a certain time for reaction, it was found that the excessive former taxation could be abolished ; so that now except the Wealth Tax and the Idler's Tax already mentioned we have few taxes left except those to be employed directly for sea ports, local, special and sanitary and benevolent purposes."

" Without accepting the low grade of humanity in which you place the soldier or the possibility of our drifting into cowardice," the doctor replied, " I should like to know a little more of the particulars of the military reform you mention. Was it brought about by the Peace Societies ? They were thought to be rather faddy at the commencement of the century."

" No ! The institution of these societies was good but their forms were unpopular. We may say that they possibly helped the great work forward a little, and I do not think it is probable that the British races would drift into cowardice. The great military reform was pressed forward from three directions in Europe. Some of our great writers and moralists in all countries before 1920 pointed out the injustice of war. They argued that it was not in any degree probable that the strongest should always be right: That the principle of right was the only dignified and desirable object to be thought of in world-govern-

ing. This could alone be secured by reason. They pointed out that the violent or blood-thirsty element of a man represented his lowest faculty, and that the least likely to be associated with his reason. War and the preparation for war was shown to be wasteful of the country's resources and as degrading to the man who acted as the soldier as to the nation who employed him. War only fostered the brutal instincts which it was the best policy of society to suppress. As regards the protection from, and the government of the few savage races, who had not yet become extinct by absorption of the diseases and vices of civilization, an armed police was quite sufficient to preserve order among them. By this police, the law was established that arms should only be used, under any condition, in self defence.

"A second factor in the great peace cause was the political force of the working man, who saw, through the influence of the higher education he had now attained, that he was made the tool of the ambitious. That by his earnings the aggressive soldier was supported. That the strongest military powers were the strongest oppressors of his liberty. That a king or president without soldiers must bend directly to the will of the people. He was convinced also that the funds formerly applied to objects of violence were sufficient, if properly used, to offer him peace institutions in the future, wherein he might find

rational delight, such as Museums, Libraries, Art and Science Exhibitions and Competitions, Music and intellectual amusements. He could have all these at the cost of preparation for war, and sufficient over and above this to form provident funds for his old age without increase of taxation. The working man realized that war was waste for which he had to pay the loss by his labour, and asserted his electoral powers to the good result which is to be seen in the peace we have now attained.

"Further, when political opinion had fully asserted itself that war was diabolical, the Christian Churches discovered that the doctrine of Christianity also represented peace. The Pope no longer hankered after his standing army and war ceased to be preached from any Christian pulpit."

"Then I presume war preparations did not increase in Europe after the beginning of the present century (1900)?" the doctor asked.

"That is not exactly true," the poet said, "Great Britain completed her navy as she proposed in the last century, as this was thought by her people necessary at the time to defend her colonies. She also formed a strong volunteer colonial army. While there were separate small states jealous of power there were constant bickerings.

"There was altogether a general feeling among

the most refined people of all nations that war would gradually decline. The gay soldier of the commencement of the century passed away. Military matters were taken seriously and reduced to science. There was no great war in Europe such as many anticipated in the last century.

"I may mention one matter as an indication of the intelligence that was brought to bear even within the degrading science of warfare, as we now consider it. The reform I mentioned was to make all soldiers, except on parade, take up as nearly as possible the colour of the landscape on which they were in active service by change of dress. If they did not do this it was fully illustrated they would certainly be shot with the modern guns if they could be seen. Every soldier's coat was made reversible; thus, if the exterior was black the interior would be green, and he could wear either side outwards. He carried also in his knapsack a light waterproof coat of dusky brown, with grey on the reverse side, with no white or bright shining parts. His national marks were made inconspicuous to vision upon the landscape. This scientific method of dress made war much less deadly, as the soldiers became very nearly invisible when in action. The hint was taken from the Boers of Old Africa. The benefit of invisible dress was made partly ineffective by the use of the telescopic gun, and this made

war again depend greatly upon night attacks. The reforms were not, however, brought about till many thousands of the gay British soldiers were lost in African wars. A black coat was used for night marching and night surprises. Happily the whole system has passed away and we now only look back upon it with a shudder. This shows how warfare became, even in small matters, scientific before it passed away."

OFFICIALISM.—" One can scarcely understand any reforms being brought about in military affairs without alteration of the entire order of government," the doctor said. " In the beginning of the century patronage meant power, and power was then very bumptious. Administrators in the highest positions did not generally understand the matters they administered. A party election might overthrow the best man and put up the worst. A kind of left-handed system prevailed. If the government wanted a specialist, say to examine the stores that were purchased for the army, of manufactures of scientific appliances, and the applicant did not get in by patronage he had to pass an examination, not in the subject he had to follow, but more probably in Latin, Grammar, Geography, History, Mathematics, or something that had nothing to do with his work, so that except by the merest accident round pegs were always put into square holes."

" This was not only the case in military matters," the poet said, " but applied generally to all official positions. Science now rules the government, and it is the law that every man must be trained more or less as a specialist with a broad basis of general knowledge before he can be selected as a government official in any special department. This law has become established in every land."

We ever build up laws on laws
For which we always find the cause,
As law is certain—child of peace
Who makes all violence to cease,
Who by refinement makes us friends
Devoted to great social ends,
No quarrel now, we give our word,
We take the hand, and not the sword.

## FOURTH SÉANCE

LOCOMOTION.—The doctor could not accept the idea that Paris would ever have become the Capital of Europe, so he brought up the subject again in the present séance.

" To resume our conversation, my Theodore, I feel I must mention again the disappointment I feel that Great Britain should fall in any way into a second rate position. Any one would have thought at the beginning of the century, that the influence of our superior position for sea traffic would have maintained our political importance. Tell me how Britain has fallen."

" I do not suggest that Great Britain holds a

second place," the poet said. "This is not possible to the British race, but you must have observed that the railways have opened out the entire interior of continents to civilization in the same manner that the sea formerly opened commerce through the sea-ports only. The amount of energy or power required for the displacement of goods, per kilogramme per kilometre, is greater on the sea than on the land in conveyance over our modern electric railways; therefore, as a natural result, merchandise is generally more quickly and sometimes more cheaply conveyed by rail than it was formerly by sea. We now understand much better than formerly the conversion of energy into electricity in a form which is altogether more portable than carrying coal, the price of which has enormously increased. You notice in our streets we have no horses, yet our vehicles go more swiftly and more safely than in olden times when these were employed. Just lift that Rhine-Falls Storage-Battery, marked R.F.S.B. It weighs only three kilogrammes, but it contains energy equal to that of a horse working for twelve hours. When it is exhausted it may not be worth re-charging, unless we are near to some available source of distribution of electrical energy, but it has some value for the metal it contains and for other purposes to which it may be applied. And even this would not be economical except in a remote district.

The bodies of the carriages you see about are themselves storage batteries, which may be charged at any station. The distribution of electric energy stations is spread over all the highways of the world that are not of sufficient importance to warrant the construction of railways.

"We will now consider the extent of our electrical railways, that we may justly estimate their effects upon modern civilization. The Northern Siberia Summer line runs right through from Paris to New York, except the short interval of Behring Straits. What we may term the branches of this line spread all over Northern Europe, Northern Asia and Canada. Then take the Central Europo-Asiatic Line; this traverses Central Europe, Southern Asia and China down to the Pacific Coast, where the boats cross for Japan. The Great Central African line runs trains through from Port Said and Alexandria to the Cape of Good Hope. Then the Central North and South American line runs trains from Montreal to Cape Horn. Where does the Oceanic traffic now come in? Just Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Madagascar, Japan and some islands. With these trade is carried on chiefly to the nearest continental port which has railway connexions with the entire continent. In fact all the great continents except Australia may now be reached almost directly from Paris or

through interchanges from every old capital of Europe."

Sources of Energy.—The doctor suggested that he could not see where the energy was found for this great inland traffic, as our available coal was nearly exhausted.

The poet replied: "As to energy, we have a large amount of tidal energy now conserved, as in the 'Wye Electric Storage Works.' We have also wave energy conserved, as in 'The Electric Wave Energy Company of Ilfracombe.' We have, of course, the energy of rainfall in rivers and mountain streams all over the world, now largely conserved through electricity; also that of direct sunshine, which we now focus in the centres of certain large valleys from glass reflectors producing intense heat by the direction of secondary reflections into limited areas. Also the energy of the winds, conserved by our new large horizontal mills. We have also the heat energy of certain volcanoes, electrically conserved by modern appliances, besides the energy of coal and mineral oil, which was the most popular at the commencement of the century, but which has now become less economical than that from other sources. It is really not so much the want of available energy that is at stake at present—science has solved that problem—as it is want of sufficient intelligence to properly conserve and utilize it. For the greatest item, we know now

for certain that the sun has performed, and is performing, an immeasurable amount of work for us, besides giving us heat and light and all the possibilities of life. We have only to look at our advance during the present century in the general conversion of heat from its various sources into electricity, of which we now possess perfect means of conservation, to see that science has given us powers of utilization of force enough for all our work. But, at the same time, our hopes for advancement are now higher than ever. We can still say with dear old Tennyson—

> "Thou hast not gain'd a real height,
> Nor art thou nearer to the light,
> Because the scale is infinite."

Motor Cars.—"I presume from what you say that horse-carriages have quite vanished," the doctor said. "Motor cars had generally a distinct odour, were rather noisy and much feared by the public from the apparently greater risks of accidents."

"The noise and odour were soon overcome, but accidents certainly occasionally occur," the poet said, "particularly in this old part of Paris from the now universal motor carriages; but I cannot see how it is possible that they should be as dangerous as horses were in former times. Motor carriages, now entirely electric, follow instantly the driver's will, and stop as required; therefore,

we must infer there is less danger with them than with uncertain animals. Even this danger is almost avoidable. Come with me to Alto-Paris, a little further up the Seine. This is all new, and there are none of the risks present that you imagine.

"See here in Alto-Paris the carriage roads are all at one floor lower level than the footpaths. Now observe, the footpaths are quite free, so that we may pass from side to side of the road by the bridges of X plan, which are narrow only in the centre, and are quite level with the footpaths. There is no real difficulty. Descend with me by one of the automatic lifts, which we see indicated by an ornamental post, surmounted by a statue, at every hundred metres.

"There now, after our descent, you see the arcades by the sides of the road, with special bays for carriages to stop. You notice the lower floors of the buildings you saw above are all stored with merchandise. The heavy traffic road runs, as you see, under the footpath upon which we were walking above. This path is entirely of framed glass, which gives sufficient light below. You notice the bays with cranes for the removal of the goods which come by the motor-wagons to and from the doors of the warehouses. By this means the centre road is kept clear for rapid traffic. We have no fear of accident in this part of Paris. We will go up again at the next lift. Notice the

time taken by the lift, in order to rise, is twenty seconds ; we have only to press the button to rise at once. The number of lifts prevents any serious delay in business.

" In this upper part of Alto-Paris we have only pleasure shops, for the sale of ornaments, books and pictures, furniture and so forth. This is the opening of a great private residential district. You may think from observation we have only shops. If you come in the centre of one of the X bridges and look higher than the shops, you may notice terrace above terrace. This is the residential part. Shops, warehouses and stores form the lower stages and basement ; above this we have roads, where you see the motor carriages freely mount to the front of all the residences by inclines, which extend for two hundred metres each. The residences in this part are all in square blocks, and enclose at the back spacious gardens, which are kept in perfect order by the company of owners, who make a rental charge for the gardening expenses. This arrangement is made to economize space in the fashionable parts, where land is of great value. Out in the country, houses are built in detached villa form, much the same as they were in England at the beginning of the century."

" You spoke of travelling from Paris by direct train to New York. This needs some explanation."

"I ought to have said it was possible in the summer time," the poet replied. "But it is by no means the cheapest or quickest route. The city boats which go daily between Havre and New York only take three days. This is much less time than by train. The surface of the boat being great, there is little motion at sea in comparison with the old ten to twenty thousand ton boats of the past. But even this motion is objectionable to some sensitive persons.

"The summer train service is interesting. You may traverse the whole of Siberia, cross the Behring Straits by floating punts, which form a bridge to take the train, and then onwards through the American system to New York, which we may call the destination of the train. Of course, this is of little advantage if we go the entire distance; but if we go to Columbia or to the Western parts of the United States, we may even in some cases save time.

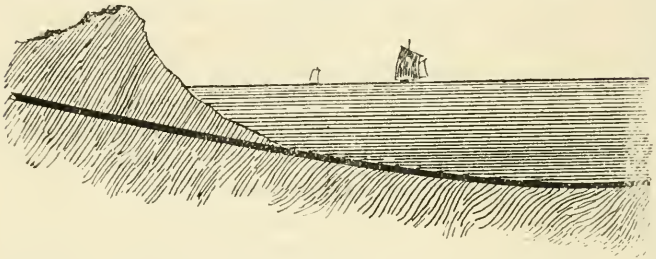
"For Central Asia and Central Africa there is immense saving in time by going by rail. We can reach Calcutta from Paris in eight or ten days, or we can reach the Cape of Good Hope in eleven days.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.—"You spoke of the distance from Paris to London being three hours' time-distance. Some days ago you spoke of a Channel Tunnel (not reported) which I understood you to say was not successful. How is this distance attained at the present time?"

" I can now give a short history of the attempts to construct direct cross-channel communication," the poet replied. " The earliest attempt was in 1920, to continue the construction commenced in the last century, of a subterranean tunnel directly through rocks in the bed of the channel. Through the faults in the strata and the great pressure of the water above, this tunnel collapsed after thirty millions had been spent on it. The next attempt in 1930 was to bridge the Channel by piers built from the bottom to fifty metres above the sea surface. These were made of concrete, the lower parts being moulded in large metal casings which were lowered slowly down to the sea bed. The complete bridge was estimated to cost one hundred million pounds. About half this amount of money was spent upon it with certainly not a tenth of the work having been completed, and none of that which presented the greatest difficulty. At this point a further estimate was made from the experience gained, which brought up the probable cost to complete it to five hundred millions. In many minds there was still a great uncertainty of the project eventually answering. It was therefore abandoned.

" In 1940 the present Sea Bed Tunnel was commenced, on an entirely new principle, which has proved a perfect success. The interior of this tunnel is formed of a compound tube of ten metres interior, and sixteen metres exterior diameter.

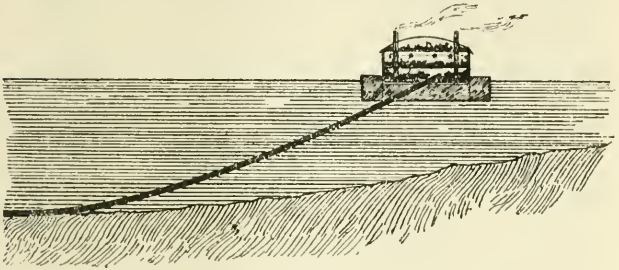
The interior surface or lining of the tube is made of alloyed steel plates three centimetres in thickness which are rivetted together like boiler plates. The exterior casing is double, being formed of a pair of tubes, the inner of which is of the same construction as the lining tube, the outer being of cast steel five centimetres in thickness. These tubes are corrugated in a peculiar manner to deflect under the variation of expansion by temperature and follow a slight curvature in the



system of tubes. The interval of three metres between the lining and casing tubes is filled in with hard vitreous brickwork, which is laid concentrically, archwise, in a special waterproof elastic cement, formed partly of gas tar, in six rings or tubes. In the intervals between the vitreous tubes, there are altogether five layers in ten thicknesses each of special tarred felting, each layer of which forms a waterproof tube of about two centimetres in thickness, and one layer of sheet lead perfectly soldered for union, and welted

over the joints by doubly soldered bands. To make the entire brickwork solid it was built at a considerable angle to the transverse of the tube, and the linings and casings were brought forward gradually at the same time. The whole system of the tube was designed for rigidity although possessing a certain small amount of deflectability.

"The cast steel exterior tubes were all fitted perfectly together in long lengths in separate parts



on land and tested for perfect watertightness, using turned bolts only which fitted the holes water-tight during construction. All parts of the tubes were lettered and numbered in the manufacture so that after being separated they could be rejoined finally and take the same relative places in the work. All the bolts were finally rivetted over, and all the outer work covered with arsenical bituminous paint. A stiff iron shield was formed in some places under the tube for a resting surface.

" The engineering work went through without a hitch as all the details were carefully considered. Upon the shore from above sea level a channel was made with a gradual slightly curved slope, to over thirty metres in depth out to sea, where this depth formed the natural sea bed. The head of the tunnel, as it was formed of the separate plates and sections with internal building, was kept with the leading end constantly above sea level, within a floating workshop two hundred metres square, surrounded by steel tubular pontoons. The workshop with its central channel was moved outward by attending tug boats at intervals as the tube was completed, until the tube by its constant extensions during its construction reached Cape Griznez. As the tube was constructed to take the curvature of its bed it was allowed to fall slowly down with only slight deflection, being held to its plan position laterally by tug boats during its gentle fall. It was kept during construction only slightly above the specific gravity of sea water, so that it should not suffer severe deflection from weight, until it reached its bed, where the internal fittings completed its weight. When it fairly rested on the bottom and the railway was made up, the whole volume of the tube possessed a specific gravity equal to 1.2 to sea water at unity. When the tube was laid satisfactorily it was covered with concrete in places at about a kilometre apart, to secure its position from future

shifts or strains due to under currents. The tube was ventilated by liquid air during its internal construction and afterwards, now it is in use for traffic. Electric pumps were provided in case of leakage of the tube, but these have never been used. The whole tunnel cost five hundred million pounds. Half this money was made by general European subscription. Half was raised by the direction of the States House of Lords from an inheritance tax in Great Britain, extending over twenty years. Bonds were issued as required during the progress of the works, upon which there still remains a small debt."

AERIAL FLIGHT.—"Aerial flight was much discussed at the commencement of the century. Has anything been done with it?" the doctor asked.

"I cannot say nothing has been done with it, but I may say nothing very satisfactory. The balloon, you know, permitted a man to rise in the air and some attempts were made to make the currents of the air direct it. This has been carried further. The storage batteries already mentioned gave power to produce displacement by means of revolving fans. We have also now very light rotary engines which are moved by intermittent chemical combustion of various nitro-hydrogen compounds. By such means of energy an aerial ship has left the Gulf of Mexico and reached Ireland, taking what help could be gained

from the Gulf Stream super-aerial current. The sanguine are full of hope but the schemes at present offered are far from having any commercial value.

> The air is peopled still with dreams,
> Fancy still soaring through the peopled air.
> We may advance, for there are gleams
> Of pregnant hopes the many share.

## FIFTH SÉANCE

LONDON.—"I should like you, my dear Theodore, to-day to tell me something about the improvements made in London during fifty years until now (1950)."

"I am not sure the advancement made is much greater than in the latter half of the last century," the poet replied. "We have now the advantage of a single municipal government. We now walk in the city in summer time under the shade of plane and other trees. The air is pure and clear, and flowers now grow about our dwellings as they formerly did in the country only. All this is a natural progress. The smoke nearly choked our citizens in 1900. It was then known to be preventable, but coal was so cheap we could afford to waste it and did not care. Now it is much dearer we have close smoke consuming fires, and a law to prevent us from contaminating the atmosphere. Electricity is also much used for all forms of energy. A form of

storage battery is supplied for household purposes. It will heat and light our rooms, and supply us with mechanical power when we want it. Otherwise we have electricity laid on directly from the electric mains. Gas works, which are still used as converters of energy from coal for light, heat and power, are not allowed near any town. They are now generally at the mouths of coal pits, where they utilize what was formerly coal-waste. These works not only make our gas, but convert the bye-products from the coal to materials and chemicals which are very valuable in the arts.

"Another great improvement is that we have now, arched subways down the centre of every street, so that our permanent steel pavements in the roads are never broken up for domestic or sanitary arrangements. Drainage, water supply, lighting, electricity in its many uses are all managed underground. Any part of a subway may be illuminated by electric light, when required for new work or repairs. The tunnels are perfectly ventilated.

"Cross-bridges under or over corner positions of roads where there is much traffic are now general. These give perfect security for passengers, and at the same time prevent the stoppage of the street traffic at any time, and thereby save many accidents which formerly occurred from the overcrowded road-ways."

CLUB-LIFE.—" You notice just out of town that the buildings are much larger and with finer frontages than formerly, generally of polished granite. This is due to the extension of the club system, which now embraces homes from the highest state down to the lowest labourers' dwellings. Let us enter this club house, 'Merchants' Clerks' Club.' There are about two thousand apartments in this building, and it is by no means one of the largest. We enter a spacious marble hall, which forms a primary reception room. To the left we have the library and reading rooms, and a few small private conversation rooms. Beyond we have the billiard rooms. Through the front doorway we may see the dining rooms and breakfast rooms. To the right there is a large drawing room, and beyond, a music room, with a small theatre. At the back we have pleasure grounds, a gymnasium and swimming baths. On all the floors above we have the bedrooms, each with separate private bath-room, hot and cold water and perfect sanitary conveniences.

" You notice there are three wide staircases with accompanying lifts to right and left of them. These lead to the three divisions of the building. The central block is isolated as 'married chambers.' To the left we have chambers for single men; to the right for single women. The opposite sexes may meet in the hall, drawing room,

dining room, library, music rooms and gardens. Every inmate we find here has had to give satisfactory references to the committee of management before his or her name was entered on the club books. Any person may be expelled if, upon sufficient evidence, his or her behaviour has been found to be derogatory to the status of the club, which the separate committees of ladies and of gentlemen keep up to a standard as high as possible.

"From the great economy of food, heating of the building and cost of attendance in club life, a person can live in the style he could formerly command in a hotel only, at less expense than in private life, when he was paying rent and taxes, with the cost of separate servants. Moreover, in these large social clubs there are naturally many persons of kindred tastes, which renders life pleasant by mutual association. As the great bard says:—'Tis meet that noble minds keep ever with their likes.'

"Of course many club houses are different from the one before us. Some associate particular trades, as those of the carpenters, masons, shoemakers, tailors, etc., wherein their libraries contain books special to their occupations or other technical matters of interest to themselves. These are managed by their honorary committees, with little expense to the individual members. No mechanical work of any kind is performed

in a club house, except in the amateur workshops attached for amusement of the inmates. Often a large manufactory for a special trade is built near. The club is now a home in which much of a man's time is spent, his labour being so much lighter than formerly through the universal distribution of natural energy and the perfection of domestic machinery; he now returns from his five hours a day employment full of vigour for the enjoyment of life. The working days being only five in the week, the workman can employ his leisure, which is much the greater part of his time, in occupations for his own gratification, often in doing some form of interesting hobby work.

"The same club system is extended to club villages, which are built to suit the taste of the subscribers who prefer a country life, and more particularly the pleasure of gardening. In this case dwellings, or cottages in groups, are generally connected in the same manner as the club houses, by means of corridors or passages which run through an entire terrace, leading to the public dining, recreation and other rooms. These club villages consist commonly of about one thousand dwellings, sometimes in flats. Several villages are generally grouped together at twenty or more miles from London, so that direct railway communication by express trains may be provided.

"Married persons with small families live sometimes in the ordinary married quarters, to which there is attached a public nursery and kindergarten school, but it is much more general to live out of town in a cottage colony, where ample school accommodation is provided. There are also special clubs for grown-up families, with art, music, and science schools. It is not in the slightest degree difficult to change one's club, with perfect references, when circumstances make it convenient to do so. There are now clubs for the elderly and for the sick, where it is quite common for elderly medical men to retire for love of continuing to follow their profession under easy, healthy circumstances."

Improvements in Town Building.—"Some days ago, my Theodore, you spoke of the improvements of buildings in Alto-Paris, where healthy provision was made for a large population. Has anything of the same class been carried out in England for combining trade with residence?"

"Not exactly," the poet replied. "We have a principle of building which has become very popular where land is valuable, which originated in England at Stanleyton-on-Thames, which somewhat resembles that already described for Paris. This has now spread throughout our colonies and abroad. It combines commercial and retail shopping roads. It is interesting; I will therefore describe this town. The meadow

land lay originally rather low, but the view of the Thames was very fine. At the back of the town the land is higher and very suitable for villa residences. The idea was to bring the commercial roads through to the front of the Thames embankment, as also the higher roads leading from the residential neighbourhood, for fashionable traffic. To effect this the commercial roads are made at right angles to the Thames frontage upon the original surface at a distance of eighty metres between centre and centre. The width of the separate roads, with the paths included, being twenty metres. The intermediate space between road and road was raised on arches or with girders one floor in height of the width required to form an upper road. This upper road is the shopping and pleasure road. The buildings are carried up between the upper and lower roads, the fronts of the buildings being shops open to the higher road level, and the backs warehouses open to the lower level. The upper roads cross the lower by level bridges. In this manner the lower roads are made wholly commercial, and the upper roads entirely for light social traffic ; so that in walking or riding through Stanleyton on the upper roads and cross streets, except in looking over the bridges, you have no idea that there exists a commercial part of the town. The upper shops are very generally connected with the lower warehouses by lifts, forming

thereby single establishments. If you enter by the lower roads, except for passing under the bridges of the upper roads, the whole town appears to be commercial. Of course the systems of roads converge to one level by inclines at certain points for general convenience. Details are unnecessary." (A sketch of the poet's idea is worked out to face the title-page.)

SANITARY MATTERS.—"You may notice from where we now stand on the river front of Stanleyton that the Thames now flows clear and bright, as it did two hundred years ago, with the bottom covered with green vegetation. This is caused by its being at the present time free from the sewage contamination it was subject to early in the century. The sewage is now entirely passed inland by means of pumps, and through sand filters, to be used after practical deodorization for irrigation purposes, and is now considered to be very valuable. The seed now brings forth truly a hundredfold. The heavier refuse from the sand filters is sent further inland by the light electric railways, which belong to the State, as valuable manure. These railways are also used for conveying material, generally for road-making and for other public purposes, where carting was formerly employed."

The doctor said there were difficulties in this sanitary scheme he could not fathom. Sewage works were often an abomination. The poet

did not reply, but pressed his head and appeared to be wandering incoherently from the subject. He said this has all been worked out. Then bursting into verse in his old style—

> "There is no waste to chemic art,
> But only change. That which is foul
> Becometh fair, for sun and rain doth change
> Filth into flowers by nature's alchemy."

## SIXTH SÉANCE

EDUCATION.—"In speaking of the superior legislative assembly of the States of Europe," the doctor said, "you put education as one of the subjects placed under the direction of a permanent committee. Has not each State power to direct its own internal education?"

"As to direction, if you mean government, certainly, each State administers the laws; but as to the laws themselves in relation to education these are most jealously enforced by the states lords, and are constructed upon scientific methods for the intellectual advancement of the people."

"When I was a young man," the doctor said, "in the latter part of the last century, education in England for the working classes was in a most unsatisfactory state. The masters of our public schools, 'Board Schools,' were kept in constant check by direction of the Government for fear the boys might learn anything that might be useful to them as mechanics afterwards. Use-

ful education being entirely ignored by the inspectors as recognized teaching, with a penalty of loss of grant to the school. The masters were then expected to teach the boys grammar, history, geography and arithmetic, with little besides. A boy was kept at school upon these subjects for six years or more in a half-sleepy state for want of any intelligent interest in his work. Some lads were kept at school eight years and at the end of the time had no knowledge of theoretical mechanics or of science in any form. English ads put to trades in their statutory ignorance, were entirely handicapped in after life by the knowledge possessed by well-educated German workmen, and all our former minor manufactures drifted from us. There was a sort of stupid training to mechanical work in workshops coming about for boys, established upon a basis of theoretical ignorance from want of technical education in a rudimentary form in the worker, which ended practically nowhere."

The poet replied: "Aristippus said, 'Boys should learn in their youth what they have to practise as men.' This practical method of education was no doubt followed out by the Greeks with the best results. Under European unity we have followed this direction and the means have thereby been given of putting a stop to all the former waste of the mental energy of our youth practised by the English when placed

under legal restraint. The educated intelligence of the citizen is now recognized as the best source of national wealth. A boy is now taught that which will enable him to raise his position in life. The system now followed is a continuation of the 'kindergarten' system, first established in Germany. All schools, licensed or public (there are no unlicensed private schools), are fitted up with complete simple lecture apparatus. Learning is now made of constant interest to the scholars, who construct many of their own physical experiments. The masters are all ascertained by practical examination to be qualified to teach individually or in groups; arithmetic in co-relation with algebra, the easy use of logarithms with the ever present use of the slide rule to save time in calculation, hydrostatics, hydrodynamics, light, heat, acoustics, electricity, chemistry, physiology and photography—these sciences are taught in a rudimentary stage where they admit of practical use in all our lower schools with the aid of apparatus, diagrams, models and the performance of experiments, in which boys take great interest. In some elementary schools in advanced classes we have astronomy, geology and biology taught, also some easy applications of the calculus. Our school walls are no longer decorated with childish pictures of imaginary Scripture scenes, portraits of Scotchmen in gaudy theatrical dresses, and

lions, tigers and animals the scholars know nothing about. We have now physical, astronomical and geological diagrams, also illustrations of dynamos, motors, electrical apparatus generally, steam and gas engines, clocks, lathes, theodolites, microscopes, telescopes, cameras, printing presses, and other implements. Also working models for separate lessons to be placed constantly before the eyes of the students to learn from, and to excite interest and inquiry.

" A boy does not now leave school in ignorance of everything he sees around him. He understands perfectly the working of a clock or watch, how gas is made and purified, and all the common principles and effects of electricity. He quite understands the machine which takes him to town in the morning, the press contrivances by which his paper is printed, the telegraph, the telephone and phonograph as it is now made, and all around him. With this knowledge he is happy as he can make experimental working models of many of these things. In fact he leaves school with more knowledge of general mechanics and science than that attained by the trained mechanic of the early part of the century, so that he is fully qualified to become hereafter a refined workman to the honour of his country."

" You have already mentioned the great waste of time spent over our stupid orthography," the doctor said. " There was quite as much or more

time spent on our persistent Chinaism in weights, measures and money. A lad at school had to get by heart hundreds of useless and antiquated quantities such as firkins of soap, English and Flemish ells, barleycorns, poles, cloves, weys, chaldrons, puncheons, stones, tods, etc. A boy would be given a sum ' 365 lots each containing 2 tons 19 cwts. 3 qrs. 26 lb. 7 ozs. 5 drams 17 grains, what would the whole weigh ? ' There were $27\frac{11}{32}$ grains to a dram. This sum would be two good afternoons' work for a clever boy, whereas in decimal quantities he could do it in less than ten minutes, or by logarithms or by a slide rule, approximately, in one or two minutes. In this way years of educational time was frivolled away. What advances have we made ? "

" In the stereotyped officialism of the early part of the century," the poet replied, " education and science were tied up and choked with red tape. Science was almost absent in our parliaments, consequently it was negatived in our elementary schools and with our officials. The advantages of a decimal system were evident to all intelligent persons, but it had little interest for sporting men or the idlers whose voices by election generally ruled the affairs of the State. A uniform decimal system was adopted in Europe about 1920, when education first began to be taken in earnest in Great Britain for the permanent advancement of the people, and the

state you describe was entirely changed. It became at this period understood that youth was the time for the education of the brain, for which every facility should be offered, with the science of facts, to be followed afterwards by the education of the hand, estimated as merely the machine of the mind, or as Lamartine puts it—'La main de l'homme, la seule machine de l'esprit.'

"A clever boy is now well advanced in the rudiments of science before he enters the secondary schools at about thirteen, wherein his general studies may be completed up to an advanced line by the time he is fifteen, at which age his intended career is fixed by his parents, who at the same time consult his own inclinations. He then enters the special training colleges for his future life's work. If he intends to become a mechanic in any craft he follows a series of studies devoted to this craft, which embraces both theoretical and practical work. For instance, if he is to become a carpenter he studies all kinds of woods for strength, hardness and durability, all kinds of strains and resistances for trusses and framing, and all kinds of joints and their fastenings, and of cements for union of parts. Also practical work at the bench. There are no apprentices now, but a well-trained youth at eighteen is willingly taken on as an assistant workman at half full wages, in which position he already knows the theory and a limited practice

of his work. There are in large cities special schools for every branch of trade that is performed in the district. We have also separate schools for electricity, chemistry, physics, mechanics, engineering, applied photography, and other subjects. Besides which we have still our polytechnics, which were started late in the last century, wherein young men and women whose occupation requires little mental effort may have their minds trained in interesting knowledge which will be a pleasure to them for life."

EDUCATION IN ART.—"I may mention another branch of education," the doctor said—"that which was given in our art schools, which were in a bad state. Nothing practical was allowed to be taught in them. Designs might be made which were adapted to certain industries, but no individual art work was allowed to be carried beyond the paper stage, however simple its direct application might be to produce valuable work. An inspector told me that the Government objected to any work upon an article of utility, so that art work was made as far as possible intentionally purposeless. I was in the potteries, and suggested on seeing the backward state of art work as compared with that of Italy, France, and Germany, that artistic work would be advanced by small clay modelling and the decoration of articles of taste being done by students in the art schools. I was told by the manager of some large pottery

works that our Government authorities in the district had been frequently approached on the subject, but that the local art schools under Government ignored everything that was practical. I found the same answer was given in Hoxton, where furniture is largely made, as to wood-carving applied to furniture."

"These matters are now ruled by common sense instead of pedantry," the poet replied. "Art school work, not mechanical work, commences one day a week when the pupil is nine years of age, and is made of practical application as far as possible to the district industry. Art work refines a man. It has now become necessary to the enjoyment of his home life. Take the potteries:—We will enter the home of a potter and see the work of his children. Here is a vase which is really a vessel of taste in form and ornament, decorated by his little girl of ten. Look on his mantelpiece. The porcelain clock case, with the medallion figures of his father and mother, was made by his lad of fifteen, now in a good position at the works. This may be prized by descendants of the family a hundred years hence. Look over the entrance door: there is a carved stone frieze, which was presented by a fellow student when he was married. Look everywhere around: see the works of art and skill which are now breathing the life of genius in the homes where dulness alone prevailed at

the end of the last century. It is now proved that if the British race has a chance they can hold their own with any country, and it was only stupid laws that held them back. Look at the potter's furniture: one son is a wood carver, trained to carving in the art schools. Look at the tasty work embellishing the family home. The zest of making artistic work and seeing it prized is one great stimulant to its perfection. We have veritable Bellinis with us now through the constant free training to utility in art work. English art work in its practical application now ranks high in the markets of the world, although some nations thought we were an inartistic people. It is not necessary now if you make a design in colours to send it to Germany to be printed to make it of commercial value. We can now assert our own, which was really prevented by the effect of the constriction of the red tape, by which applied talent and taste in art were legally tied up and strangled. At the present time the art schools are directed to the industry of the district; thus in the potteries it is painting on china and modelling; in Birmingham, art metal work; in Clerkenwell, art jewellery; in Hoxton, wood-carving; in Bethnal Green, silk weaving designs, and so on for other industries."

SECONDARY EDUCATION.—"It would be interesting," the doctor said, "to know how far you have carried practical secondary education."

" Education being now not only free in its rudimentary form, but open for the pursuit of all learned professions with every encouragement for advancement, every sufficiently intelligent son or daughter of a citizen of the European States may be what he or she and the parents please. Any one capable of learning may pass under the tuition of the most learned men or women who are our honoured professors. Medicine, law, art and science in all its branches are open, and every one is invited, whose attention to early teaching and general ability qualifies him or her to pass the necessary examination for entry. If a student fails in these higher things he or she may take a humbler walk within his or her capacity. This is not generally less profitable in pecuniary reward, provided one has the necessary tact for the employment, for which every one has attained the rudiments at school. It is further by strictly honest examination only that any one can pass into a high-class profession. There are no restrictive fees of any kind, nor is family or friendly patronage permitted to help our aspirants."

" It would strike one, from what you have said, that what we termed learning and high art at the commencement of the century has now been entirely shunted. Have we no education for Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Egyptian scholars or for great artists ? "

" Oxford and Cambridge are still open to any

young man or woman who has means at command, from the parents' savings or otherwise, to pursue learning for itself alone, just as it was in the end of the last century, or a person may, in a competition, take a scholarship which provides means for advanced studies, classical, scientific or artistic, at these colleges. Further, the State now helps in every way in such studies and is as proud as ever of the possession of learned men and women among us. As regards high art particularly, it is now taught in our secondary art schools in quite a different manner from what it was formerly. The student does not now waste six months at a time in stumping the shadows of the unnatural bumps of a youthful Hercules or other antique monstrosity, nor in daubing and smudging a bad drawing taken from a living human figure by working with big brushes in the style of the weakest craze of decaying R.A.ism. His work now must be life-like, studying Nature only, following the steps of men little honoured at the end of the last century—Soloman, Collier, Sadler, Blair Leighton, Dollman, Leader and others whose works we now prize."

Intellectual Advancement.—"I should like now," the doctor said, "to know if intellectual advance (1950) corresponds with the educational advance you have just described?"

"In the sense that the fittest survives it does. But whether the fittest is really the most intellec-

tual in a broad sense I should say that it has not advanced. This may be explained by taking the intellectual condition of London during the last century. In 1850, before the establishment of free trade, there were in London over a thousand small industries, each of which depended upon individual intelligence. As an instance, in Clerkenwell there were fifty industries that depended upon making and finishing the parts of a watch by the human hand, which are now performed by refined machinery. All industries were separated into technical parts that required skill, as in jewellery, glass-blowing, philosophical apparatus, lace weaving and trimming making, and the production of many other articles. When the world's trade was thrown open to competition it was carried on most advantageously in the most concentrated manufacturing districts for each speciality in any part of the world at the time. The small industries of articles of use or fashion, made only by individual talent, were unable to compete with the larger industries or establishments. In fact the small industries were ruined and the workers starved. Thus, for instance, Geneva, an ancient watch-making industry, which sent work to London free of duty, cut out our watch trade entirely. In like way Lyons, for silk, cut out Spitalfields, and generally work was brought from the most concentrated special industrious districts, where wages were also

lowest. But upon this a universal trade by barter followed, and London became the world's open store, so that our nation could be more particularly defined, as Napoleon once called it, ' a race of shopkeepers.' This political change demanded a lower but distinct class of intellect to meet the new conditions. Further, by the end of the century the machine was superseding the individual constructive quality of the man, thereby providing the only means of competition in the world. With refined machinery, where twenty branches of a business formerly demanded skill and individual cleverness, the boy or girl with training and a little experience could now perform more work, equal in quality, by merely attending to the nearly self-acting machines.

" By the end of the last century the amusements of the people clearly marked the change of intelligent enjoyment. In the middle of the century (1860) the Polytechnic and the Alhambra in London gave science lectures, always well attended by men and women. Shakespeare and other deeply thought-out dramas were on the stage constantly. At the end of the century the music hall prevailed with other stage frivolities.

" Near the end of last century, London hatters observed that the demand had gradually grown for smaller hats, that is there were less average brains. Further, that the race of broad heads had passed away, and we had now to

provide for long narrow heads. Indeed, the fittest to survive as the bread-winner was the man with the greatest amount of concentrativeness or scrutinous application to business, which required phrenologically a long head with full projecting brows, not a wide one. Further, the condition of affairs which led to the necessity of large machine factories and stores, suppressed the need of constructive talent, but demanded honesty in men who took the place of the former workmen, who were now reduced to the state of servants of a superior tradesman. The few constructive brains that are required for the designing of machines and for the limited amount of really technical hand work, now occupy not more than one-tenth of the entire number of persons employed. Of these not more than two per cent. require original talent, so that upon the whole, as less intelligence is required for constructive power, therefore less survives.

"The above fact does not avoid the necessity of highly trained education; to attain the two per cent. of constructive talent mentioned, the whole mass of the people have to be educated to find the most capable. If we fail in this we must as formerly send to Germany for the higher worker, for that country still maintains the highest educational standard. We have natural talent enough for the average work that is not performed by machinery, but as intelligence increases, higher

quality of work is demanded, which we aim at as far as the State will permit. In this our national life will ever strive to assert its vigour.

> Aspiring still we higher rise;
> The prize we gain begets a higher prize;
> More light we have more light we ask,
> With more delight our greater task."

## SEVENTH SÉANCE

RELIGION.—"Let us now, my Theodore, speak of the advances or refinements made in religion since the beginning of the century (1900), when it formed a much-contested subject of education and politics among the learned. The old churches, I see, remain as they were, which is an evidence of the existence of the old pious spirit which some thought might be reformed off the face of the earth."

"To venerate is human. We may possibly say it is even animal, for no one doubts the abject veneration of the dog for a kind master, whom he worships, and for whom he is ready, at any time, to risk his life. We have never found a nation or a tribe without a god. This our superstitious fear alone creates, even if the god be represented by a stone or mere god-stick-fetish carved out of a block of wood, made generally to represent an ancestor. The whole mystery of nature upon the earth, the presence to our

vision of the sun, moon and stars, all fill the mind with wonder, and give it a tendency to worship the Great Power which we may conceive has created all. Further, life is full of trouble and pain, and this an average man or woman can only bear through faith in relief by prayer.

"It is a part of all natural religion also to venerate a great man, and after his death, when his faults are forgotten, to exalt him by our ever-present faculty of the love of the good and wonderful. All divine teachers, or local gods, were no doubt truly great and worshipful men. This does not say that all nations are equally inclined to venerate the great men born among them, although some are especially so. Ask the wandering Arab of to-day, still dwelling in his tent in the cradle-land of all our Asiatic-European religions. You will hear him tell you, as formerly, that all his distant and even near ancestors were wonderful men. Were all religions lost he would create you a new one to-morrow from ancestor worship.

"The most concrete form of religion in Great Britain that we know of was held by our people in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, when our great cathedrals, monasteries and abbeys were built as pure god-sake offerings, at the sacrifice by the people of all private luxury. Then nearly every man in this great nation, with his fortune, arms and brains, was ready with all his might and means to help to raise these glorious

monuments dedicated to the worship of his God and Christ. This strong religious sentiment, truly god-love, of which we have evidence in the remains of these very buildings, where is it now? We look in vain! It has intellectually slowly passed away, absorbed and generally lost in the cold philosophy of evidences.

"Late in the last century many leading men began to think broadly, not always obstinately, upon theology, which was then estimated as a general and very human science. These men followed the dictates of historical research, which brought about a sounder knowledge of facts, so that liberal-minded men began to respect every creed only by its historical significance. Since this time all creeds have been looked through with microscopical precision in the light of linguistic knowledge. There is now a large section of leading men who hold, from literary and antiquarian evidence, that the world's great teachers throughout all time have ultimately been made its gods, the god-head being evidently established through the instrumentality of one or more great admirers or disciples, who being more learned than the teacher, formulated his worship in a logical manner.

"Our European pulpits are now not uncommonly occupied by men and women of high intelligence, endowed with the broad gift of honesty, making no apology for the weak points of their national

religion, which they would not grant to other religions. The moral teachings, not only of Christ, but of Brahma, Buddha, Moses, Solomon, Confucius, Zoroaster, Plato, Mahomet, Shakespeare, who are estimated as great, irrespectively of any supernatural power, are now fully discussed in the pulpit as guide-memorials to direct us. We have also in the pulpit the glory of science fully acknowledged, and the wonders of physics, astronomy, geology and biology employed to inspire religious thought. The magic lantern has become a common church fixture for graphic demonstration of the facts of science and nature to support our advanced modern religious inspiration.

"It can now be pointed out in our pulpits without fear of censure for atheism, that the great world-lessons of some early teachers—or gods—became the motive of the following great teachers, who became in turn venerated as gods, often by extending the earlier teaching; so that it is thought to be right to associate all great teachers together. Thus, as an instance, the beautiful law of Confucius, which condenses pure morality into a phrase, "That you should do to another as you would have another do to you," has been incorporated in all religions since his time, although this general high tone of justice may not commonly prevail in the newer religion, whose special merits beyond absolute veneration may be benevolence

or other virtue, or even possibly in some cases human weakness.

"The historical evolution of creeds has now become a matter of general knowledge, and is even taught in some European schools. There are, however, still many sections of religious specialists, who feel they can only venerate and follow the teaching of one master. When this is the inclination, or even, as some assert, the capacity of their minds, it is no doubt for their happiness, and who can object? The number, however, of such special devotees yearly decreases. Every one of more than average intellect forms his own religion from the materials set before him for consideration.

"The intelligent spirit of all times develops the division of thought. We are all individuals, not uniform masses. As a matter of fact we have still popular religious creeds in Europe as various as the thoughts of men and women upon the subject. Many believers in separate deities (or deified persons) hold to a unity of god-head. With this reserve we have polytheists—or saint-worshippers, tetratheists — or worshippers in fear of the Trinity combined with the devil-god, tritheists — or trinity-worshippers, who worship a trifold god, without belief in the devil-god, ditheists—or worshippers of God and Christ, or God and Mahomet only. Theists—or worshippers of one god, agnosto-theists — or no-

worshippers, indifferent to all religious belief, and atheists, opposing belief in God and religion of any kind.

"What is not uncommonly taken at the present time to be an advanced form of religious thought, is really a kind of religion of moral philosophy, in which the religious ideas adopted by any man are estimated merely as his opinions upon the subject. That is, the manner in which his mind grasps a history or a legend. These freethinkers, as we may call them, have in some cases, no doubt, analysed creeds to their moral advancement: A common formula, on which they insist, is that there is no public good in any religion that takes its stand on veneration, or faith, as it is termed, alone, but only in that form of religion that is active to do good. They argue that universal religion cannot be a thing of faith, as every creed has its separate faith ; and there is no doubt that a follower of Buddha or of Mahomet is as strong in his faith as a follower of Christ. Further, if religion be pure selfishness alone, or for self-preservation of the soul in the future, it cannot be defined even as a common morality.

"The few years of historical time compared with the long period of life of man on earth, extending to paleolithic time, when his tools were of chipped flints, cannot be more than as an hour to his long day of life. So that we know of no beginning of humanity. The higher thoughts propounded

within the seven or eight thousand years of historical time may be taken to be of the present. Similar high thoughts may have earlier run through many minds, but the first who expresses them in clear language is the great man, who is estimated as a god. We add our present thoughts to those of the past which bring' up the details. The great advance in manhood now attained in a critical sense is due to the larger circle of educative intelligence, which arms us with more complete knowledge of our forerunners.

"The morals of life being now better understood, these react and produce a great effect upon modern religious thought, which was in the past predominately influenced by fear. We can reflect back through the records of the eighteenth century, which is only 150 years ago (1800), when there was no city in the world where a person dare stray outside its walls after dark without great risk from robbery and violence. We can compare this with the end of the last century, when a traveller could go unmolested to nearly every part of the world. Within the same 150 years, our seas were infested with pirates as the land was with thieves. Until all this prevailing violence and dishonesty were suppressed, a man could not be free to assert his higher instincts or better thoughts. At this violent period we find, as shown by our literature, that religious thought exactly corresponded with the mean

mental condition in which fear formed the predominant element. The fear of God and the devil-god was constantly preached from the pulpit. We have advanced beyond this in the present century, and we have the Love-god only preached. We can feel now in the presence of a general peace, when the laws of a moral life are more actively understood, that we have no fear of violence here, and in religious equivalence no fear of severe punishment hereafter, to keep us straight in the way of life. We see now that it is our duty to do right for right alone, not for any selfish future reward or everlasting-happiness-promise. Right only justifies itself. Unless we shut our eyes to anticipatory religious advantages, there can be no virtue in us, but only bargaining for the soul, however much our weaker sentiments may lead us to think so. The teaching of Our Lord with regard to this form of pious self-preservation is not always understood :—"Whosoever shall save his soul shall lose it."

"Moral and intellectual religion was greatly strengthened early in the century by its separation from State control in European States. A teacher or minister has now generally to depend for his world-position upon his character, merits and ability, instead of upon the patronage or purchase which formerly might set him above a more moral and capable man. The true saint finds,

as heretofore, his perfect happiness in constantly doing good work, which is irrespective of his special creed. He finds his acceptable position in the hearts of his followers, and the feeling that he is doing the work of his God. He needs no props or state-supply-supports, his soul's desire to do right being all-sufficient, with his ever-active kindness and love of humanity, wherein his followers love to help him along and support him, as their duty to their teacher.

"We must, however, always recognize that philosophical religions may not be the popular religions of many nations. The religion must always correspond with the intelligence. A man who has not followed historical research, nor knows even an outline of the sciences, of astronomy, geology and biology, may find no irrationality in the most vapid myths of antiquity. His god may as easily be confined in a cupboard, as he may prevail in the whole universe. With the philosophical there is no doubt greater refinement in ideas of god-head. A pious philosopher no longer tells his god what he ought to do, as the savage does his fetish, or prays to him to look after certain people in trouble, set the weather to rights, or direct soldiers it is glorious to murder their enemies, as he thinks his god will do right under all circumstances. His religious ideas make god to him an all-powerful natural law, within which he strives to act, "Thy

will be done" being his ever-present mental prayer. Suppressing his vanity, he does not presume to think that the universe was created in recent time or only for himself — that the spreading oak was created just to shelter him from sun and rain, as he thinks the sparrow has an equal right to feel it was created to form his perches.

"Seeing there ar emany creeds, and all of them self-infallible to the believer—to the just mind every faith becomes illogical. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that where the mind is not strong enough to resist evil, any faith may impose a directive influence from the fear of offending a Superintending power. Under this fear men and women may sometimes be made good citizens. This influence has been greatly developed throughout western civilization, under which Christianity, in its somewhat refined form, has spread, with many devotees, who have no taste for deep inquiry into history, nor place in their minds for intrusion of any variation in the creed their good mothers taught them."

Immortality of the Soul.—"What are the advanced opinions on this subject?" the doctor asked, "If our faith in the antique myths, as you are inclined to estimate our faiths, which form our religions, whether Buddhist, Christian or Mahomedan are gone, we have then nowhere to look for a future state." This was said

satirically, as the doctor held quite different opinions from the poet on the subject.

The poet replied, "Immortality is a mental reservation that many of us hold beyond history or myth.

"Life and death! beyond conception wonderful!
No definite line between the matter and the life.
The social pair of cells from which our body springs
Bears all the elements of self, in various qualities,
Providing vital force enough to rear the complete man.
Yet who can say wherein what separate part is life?
Why not? To our most material thoughts
The wondrous microscopic vital cell, or molecule,
Or what you will, live on through infinite time?
Even when flesh—so much unlike itself decays.
In death, why not this vital cell, we call our life,
Expand to substance like the air we breathe,
To float at pleasure in the ever-present world.
A spirit form—escaped from body's death—
Free to recognize within the circumambient air
Brother and sister spirits present like itself.
Such spirit forms may hide in human dreams,
Or move in flitting thoughts to aid a friend,
Or by inspiration lead him whither they will.

Ministering angels! friends of my soul!
That help and guide me through this weary world.
That ever speak to me in visionary thoughts,
To bring some gleams of light to this dull life.
I am ever longing to be with thee:—

Spirits, ye beckon me! I come! I come!
Welcome my yearned-for goal
To make this living frame a tomb,
And quickly wing away my soul."

## EIGHTH SEANCE

LAW.—"When I was a young man in England (1900)," the doctor said, "civil law, if taken as a standard of justice, was not in a very satisactory condition. In our courts men of education were licensed and encouraged to misrepresent by every subterfuge the case for plaintiff or defendant. A counsel who was clever obtained high fees, and was complimented if his ability defeated justice. A poor man with a very weak counsel might be anticipated the loser before the trial commenced."

"With advanced public morals," the poet replied, "the falsehood of a public man becomes worse than that of a private one. Legal untruth, not recognized at the period, was in time acknowledged as being as objectionable as other untruth. A silk gown could not sanctify what is now considered to be lies and misrepresentation. The judges early in this century rose in morals above the forms of their courts. The whole system, with its immoral weakness, has passed away. Justice now rests in the hands of the States who practically employ their own barristers.

"If you have a legal plaint to make you lodge it in a public office. If the matter is small, it is decided by the District Public Legal Scrutineer, in the presence of plaintiff and defendant, for a small fee. The Scrutineer may call witnesses

if he pleases, but the matter is generally settled with half an hour's personal inquiry. If the matter is important, or the first decision is unsatisfactory, it is decided by a legal committee or by a jury, to which it is referred by paying slightly higher court fees. If it is necessary to call witnesses, the State calls them at public expense to the extent required by the case. As justice does not now depend in any way upon the loquacious ability of a bantering counsel, there are very few legal matters that cannot be decided in a summary manner with perfect satisfaction to both plaintiff and defendant. At present the administration of law is only a question of right, independent of the impudence or even of the ability of the representative of either party to the case.

"As regards conveyance of property in fee-simple, the vendor or his legal representative has to supply documentary evidence of his title, and to appear with the vendee or his legal representative at the appointed public office for the signing and registration of his conveyance. When the possession of the property and the identity of the vendor are satisfactorily assured, the conveyance is registered and kept in the State records with plans attached. A printed copy, made by the State at the cost of the vendor, is taken by the vendee, and this forms his title deed, which cannot possibly be altered by fraud. Other

copies may be had at any time by payment of a small fee. The entire title deeds of a wealthy man are commonly bound in one small volume. In some cases it is thought to be advisable that small carbon copies of the vendor and vendee's photographs should be printed upon the record to be kept by the State for identity. When an estate is complicated by old title deeds the particulars of title must be given by a sworn solicitor, who has to draw up a full statement as concisely and clearly as possible to be printed for the record, which being duly entered need only be referred to again by its index number. Agreements for letting or for short terms upon any business matter are not registered, but a note of them must be given in at the record office to be entered in a book for contemporary agreements, which is indexed and kept for twenty years, for which a small court fee (a florin stamp) is charged.

" The law of wills is much reformed, the power of willing property where there are relations being limited. A wife is entitled to half the proceeds of the deceased husband's property for her life, if she has not private property sufficient to maintain her former position. A man or woman cannot leave his or her family or father or mother in want if he or she has ample means to leave property for their provision. If the wife has private property the husband takes a third share of it, upon her decease for his life,

and her children, if in equal circumstances and needy, take the remainder equally divided among them, in State trust till of age, under certain detailed circumstances. Where there are no needy relations the will may be made entirely at the discretion of the testator.

" In intestacy an estate is divided, after the wife's half-life-interest for life is secured, equally between the deceased husband's parents, if living, and every child, with reversion to the children. The parents take the estate in part, only if they can prove necessity and the children are grown up. When the estate is large, a brother or sister of the deceased under affliction may claim a part. The general direction of law in the matter is to divide property as much as possible, as it is now recognized that the subsidized idler is a burden to the State, and that any form of concentration of property, after the decease of the former possessor, tends to produce the independent idler. By these laws large estates have been generally broken up with great political advantage.

" In criminal laws we have still the magistrate and the jury predominant. Civil cases may be referred to a jury if the public Scrutineer thinks that justice may be better secured by this means, or the case is one in which technical knowledge of the subject or even sentiment may form a factor that should modify the law. In complicated cases, where the law from the

special conditions may not appear to be just, a plaintiff may demand with sufficient reason an equity adjustment on the case *per se* on its merits."

SWINDLING.—" Perhaps the greatest defect in our laws late in the last century," the doctor said, " was the legal protection given to swindlers, who were so successful that they frequently rose to high social positions, kept their carriages, and even became Members of Parliament. Such instances as the following occurred as a matter of common practice : A professional (not a sworn) broker, with a London address, advertised some shares for sale in an old-established successful company. A man who had saved two hundred pounds by hard work, saw the advertisement and offered to buy them. A bill was sent to him for their cost and he sent the money. He was told to call for the shares in a few days, when the cheque would be cashed. When he called a clerk in the office laughed at him, and told him it was only a debt ; he might sue for it, but he was afraid his money was gone. Thinking this must be a criminal matter, he went to a respectable lawyer. He was told that the man he had trusted with his money was a well-known established swindler. He could sue him in court for the money certainly, but through the law's delay he would not be likely to get it, and might be saddled with heavy costs. With a swindler

it could only be treated as a debt ; if a poor man had taken, say a few pounds in trust for a purchase in the same manner as the swindler had done and kept it, it would have been a criminal case to take before a magistrate, and the culprit would have been punished with severe imprisonment,but the law allowed the swindler special privileges, much to the disadvantage of trade. In this case the man who had saved his money lost it, and had his law expenses to pay.

" Another common case was a limited company founded on false pretences, with one promoter, who was also the money receiver, and who held 994 shares, and six clerks, porters or other poor men in his employ had one share each given to them in order to get the bubble company registered. Circulars were issued for the sale of new shares and certain subscribers found ; all the subscriptions went into the promoter's pocket, and nothing further was done or attempted to be done with the company, excepting sometimes to put it into liquidation, wherein the assets were said to be absorbed in the expenses."

" Reform of this last abuse you describe was commenced late in the last century, in about 1920," the poet replied ; " there then sprang up among the British people a very intelligent lawyer, who wrote a book just to point out to the uninitiated the weak points of the British com-

mercial laws. This book was reviewed and talked about by people generally. This lawyer was unpopular in the profession, but was not struck off the rolls. The following year a law was made against influential swindlers, by which they were hereafter to be treated just the same as a dishonest poor man was for a similar but minor offence.

"The law being now in the hands of the State, subject to public opinion, as already mentioned, justice is held supreme, and these things cannot occur—rich and poor are treated alike."

BUBBLE COMPANIES.—"With regard to the bubble companies. The foundation of a company is now laid before a committee of the Board of Trade before the limited liability company can be registered. The Board of Trade has no disposition to give a trading permit to any firm of swindlers. The form of application that is made is quite sufficient for official adepts to detect dishonest intentions, particularly with a black list of well-known swindlers to refer to for the names of the promoters or directors who are the prime movers. A relatively small fee is charged to pay Board of Trade expenses, and the people are assured of the *bona fides* by the certificate given by the Board."

"I suppose there is still crime?" the doctor asked.

"This was in a certain degree propagated

by the State early in the century. Many men spent nearly all their lives in prison, as after they had served the term of their conviction their bad character would prevent them getting any employment. Thieves were therefore compelled to steal again to get back to prison, or starve, or go to a workhouse, which they dreaded more than the prison, which they were in a sense brought up in. This was obviated a little by private charity. Crime decreases naturally by the spread of education, a fact well asserted at the end of the last century. If a man has an object in life, the instincts of violence and the craving for ill-gotten gain cease and crime becomes unpopular. Crime is now considered as a mental aberration, and treated as a form of lunacy. It is corrected by personal isolation. Prisoners found guilty of theft, or of public deception, as by false advertisements which lead to ill-gotten wealth, are now treated in the same way, of being isolated in a district where there is nothing worth stealing. The terms of imprisonment gradually increase with the number of convictions, from three months to many years. The isolated districts are constantly becoming less in area as these vices are diminishing. A man when he leaves prison may apply for State protection, that is, employment on public works, reclaiming land from the sea, terracing mountains for cultivation, etc., for public good. He

therein has food, clothing and wages, which last he may save to secure a living position when he elects to be free. A woman in the same way performs lighter work with similar results. There is no hard (useless) labour as formerly, so the prisoner often gains during confinement a grateful state of mind.

"Arson, forgery and wilful injury to any person and great cruelty to an animal, are treated in the same manner as theft, only that the classes of criminals are separated, in bad cases, of course, with a long period of isolation.

"Murder is very rare now. The penalty of this crime is isolation for life with other murderers in an open-air prison, a humane principle established for more than two centuries in Russia. A public execution would now be considered as a public murder. There are now only five murderers living who have been convicted throughout the States of Europe. They are all in one prison home in Russia. The tendency to violence has decreased in all nations."

DRINK.—"How do you now deal with drunkards?" the doctor asked—"an abomination early in the century."

"They have nearly died out," the poet replied. "The States law of A.D. 1925 made drunkenness criminal by infliction of the penalty of isolation, which has produced a marvellous effect. When a man or woman is found to be

drunk in the streets, or proved to be so frequently in private, he or she is taken before a magistrate by the police directly or brought up by warrant. The penalty imposed is generally isolation for three months for the first offence. This isolation consists in compelling the convict to follow his or her employment if possible by work or correspondence within an enclosed district where no alcoholic drink is admitted. When the convict's employment is of a class that cannot be performed within the enclosed district, the State finds him or her employment therein. A second offence after he or she has been set free brings a penalty of six months' isolation, each additional conviction increasing the penalty by six months until it reaches three years.

"There is no person of the opposite sex admitted within the enclosure. The enclosure for males or females set apart on waste lands in England in 1925 was about two square kilometers; it is in no sense a prison. In matters of comfort an industrious drunkard is taken every care of. He may, if possible, carry on his trade if he has one. He or she may obtain income from private property or friends to a limited extent where the family, if one exists, is otherwise sufficiently provided for. The convicted drunkard, after the second offence, has no right of voting for parliament or local affairs during his life. Women are isolated in exactly

the same way as men. Temperance being now general, there is seldom a case of a long period of isolation.

"The great cause of drunkenness at the commencement of the century was due to the laxity of the Government, who would not recognize it as a vice, as nearly every important brewer and distiller was in parliament, and the publicans at the time were found to be the best electioneering agents—even better than the clergy. In deference to some able humanitarians important reforms were brought about. Public houses in 1900 were made generally with many doorways leading to obscure chambers, within which drunkards could sot unobserved. This was abolished early in the century, by licensing each of these sotting-bars as a separate public-house, with separate licensing fees payable thereon. And as the law was passed that drunkenness should not in any case be held an excuse for crime, or mitigate its punishment, in all drunken charges the name of the publican, if possible, by whom the drunkard was encouraged to sot was entered in the magistrates' note-book, and placed upon a public list in the court vestibule, to be referred to on the publican's application for the renewal of his license, or licenses if he had several bars in the same house. The magistrates had power, according to circumstances, to shorten the night hours of a public house down to eight

o'clock p.m. No publican was allowed to give credit for alcohol in any form, so that an intemperate workman's wages at the end of the week could not go directly to the publican, and leave his family starving, as was quite common at the commencement of the century. These and other reforms rapidly decreased the crime until it became unpopular.

" Another great reform was made in stringent law as regards the brewing of beer. Early in the century any poisonous compound, even that in which arsenic in poisonous quantities was detected, was legalized by small fines, as brewers' interests were formerly very prominent in parliament. It was only necessary to make a beery flavoured compound to pass law, whereas foolish restrictions were passed by parliament for the designation of ox-butter, which did not possess a butterman representative in parliament. Further, beer was loaded with salt, so that the drinking of it should produce thirst, to hold the drunkard to the public house. Now the article called ' beer or ale ' must be brewed from malt and hops only, and a determined amount of salt only be dissolved in it. Chemical wines made in Hamburg, and beet root spirit, flavoured with certain coal-tar products, formerly called ' Cognac,' or Whisky must not be sold with this or any other name to defraud the public. Our public analysts now protect us from many frauds.

"As I said before, drunkenness has now nearly died out. The degrading spectacle of rows of workmen's wives standing along the pavements in towns waiting with their perambulators and babies for the husbands to be turned out of the public houses, drunk, at midnight on Saturdays, for the wives to be able to get a little food for the Sunday, was not seen in England for long in the present century. The earlier closing of public houses and another law, which I have not yet mentioned, viz., that a man may be imprisoned if he spends more than a quarter of his wages in drink, produced great effects. At present one very seldom meets a drunkard in the streets.

"Crime and pauperism were very largely due to drunkenness. A great reform was effected by entirely prohibiting alcoholic liquors in any of our prisons or workhouses—for officials or inmates.

Again we mount a higher stage,
And as we rise we more survey.
The plain below is murky still,
But the sun shines brightly over all.
Anon alone sweet flowers shall bloom,
And virtue dwell on hill and plain.

## NINTH SEANCE.'

MARRIAGE.—"We had much discussion in our periodical literature over marriage laws at the

end of the last century," the doctor said. "Has there been any change?"

"The marriage laws of Europe, according to the supreme decision of the States Lords, must be now used as a means of strengthening the coming race mentally, physically and morally by the union of healthy, intelligent persons. In this they have adopted in principle some of the old Swiss laws, which are modified in certain points by the customs of separate states. The principles asserted in these laws, as set forth, are that a man should not marry until he is twenty-four years of age. He must be of good constitution and in good health. He should not be of the idler class. He should possess a good character, and never have been convicted of crime or drunkenness. He should have passed a certain standard of education in a public or a licensed school. He should possess not less than fifty pounds in the savings bank, which any industrious single man can now save. Among the lower classes he should have the necessary furniture to form a home. His proposition for marriage is placed before the magistrate with his reference papers for signature of permit, coupled with those of his intended wife. His marriage must be civil, for certainty of registration, but he may have a second religious marriage if he and his fiancée desire it.

"A woman qualified for marriage should possess a good constitution and be in good health. She

should be not less than eighteen years of age. She should possess twenty pounds in a savings bank—a small amount now. She should have passed a certain standard in education with good knowledge of domestic economy and hygiene. Her character should be good, assured by satisfactory references. Her petition for marriage is signed by the magistrate at the same time as that of her intended husband. No blood relations can marry under any circumstances whatever. This sets the matter in an ideal form, in detail some exceptions are permitted."

"This system appears to preclude the union of many deserving persons," the doctor said, "and I question whether the restrictions given may not be indirectly a cause of vice."

"By making marriage an honourable state and an acknowledgment of personal worth, it becomes the ambition of proper minded young persons. It makes young men and women industrious, frugal, and willing to follow a hygienic mode of life, which establishes perfect health. On the other hand, as you suggest, the present legal restrictions are not free from certain objections, nor can they be accepted according to the custom of some nations; but provided the general principles are recognized, the separate states may make their own laws modifying in various ways the somewhat severe dictates of the states' law. The subject is constantly before the 'States Social Permanent

Advancement Society.' Therefore it may yet meet with further improvement. The practical advantages of the present state law, in nations where it is entirely accepted, have no doubt proved so far for the good of our race. When the mind is properly directed, the sickly and imperfect creatures around us see the justice of preventing their infirmities being propagated, under cover of the law, to the deterioration of the future race, through heredity. The conditions of human imperfection, when properly realized, make a single life willingly accepted by the prudent and unselfish. Further, when the evils of consanguinity in marriage are understood, by the examination of records showing the presence of the offspring in all the public charitable institutions established in the past for the preservation of defective humanity, the desire for union between relations ceases, just as between brother and sister. Further, we should also face the full sense of our natural infirmities when such exist. Where virtue is not held as binding natural law, the selfish persons who disregard it must be dealt with otherwise by the civil laws of their own country."

Social Permanent Advancement Society.—"I should like to know something of this 'Social Permanent Advancement Society.' It has at least the merit of having a fine name," the doctor suggested.

"Yes. We cannot always define a purpose in a few short words. We may take it that it was a kind of mental offset from the Salvation Army, which produced a great social revolution within a large section of the lowest class in Great Britain. This society was led by a most able philanthropist and human organizer, late in the last and early in the present century, who styled himself 'General' Booth.' Under the direction of his *Army*, as his devotees pleased to call it, numbering a million souls, every popular vice was more or less successfully attacked among the uneducated and intellectually weak, that is, those most prone to crime, with great effect: In this society marriage was in a manner practically organized by the selective union of healthy and sober men and women, who, by industry and providence, had obtained means to support a comfortable home.

By the success of the Salvation Army in dealing with the poor, it was thought by many men and women of superior intelligence that the morals of society generally might be advanced by attacking the subject in a somewhat similar manner, but with broader views, particularly for countries like France and Austria. Even in Britain for the higher class it would not be necessary to stoop to the ignorance and vanity of the agents of the Salvation Army, who prided themselves on their eccentricity and disturbed the streets with bad music on

Sundays, as a means of drawing together an assembly of idlers for curiosity to listen to a brawling ignorant fellow who could speak of nothing but himself, extolling his own goodness, which he attributed to joining the Salvation Army. Of course this was outside the good work of the Society, for beneath this outward show, its teachers were generally trained to charity, in a manner organized to promote the social advancement of the lower classes, particularly in the endeavour to secure the domestic happiness of the *soldiers*, as they were termed. Wherein the Society failed as a complete system in Europe was in that it was adapted only to the uneducated class, as it must be impossible for the conceited and ignorant, as so many of the Salvationists were, to lead the learned. The Social Permanent Advancement Society attempted to take the subject up among those of greater scientific attainment, particularly of the middle and upper classes, wherein a certain amount of selfish individuality permits men and women to think for themselves, and direct their lives consistent with the circumstances that surround them, and the general intelligence they individually possess."

"We will leave this new Society for a time and return to the marriage system," said the doctor.

DIVORCE.—"You speak of health and good character being the essentials of success in

married life. There must surely be the important conditions of temper and disposition, which may be bad, that make marriage sometimes a failure, which cannot be measured by rule, by any civic authority. These were often the primitive causes which led to further aberration and ultimately to proceedings in the divorce court. Perhaps these matters are changed with regard to divorce. I should like to know more about it."

"Although temper, as you say, may be a cause of discord, still health and good character form a great assurance of happiness in married life. One member of a social contract being sickly, which was formerly permitted by law, may cause the other, who may be a weak-minded or selfish person, to go wrong after the first ardour of married life has cooled down. Divorce laws have, however, been extended. A protracted life of misery between discordant minds is not now thought to be a political necessity. There are a great many cases, particularly from some immorality in one of the persons, wherein divorce is legal. This applies especially to the working classes. It was quite a common custom at the beginning of the century for an idle worthless fellow to work when young just sufficiently to get a poor home together, or even to hire one, in order to induce an industrious innocent young woman to marry him, and then to compel his wife to work for him and the family

all her life. Our streets were full of these idle fellows lurking about or sotting in the arbours the publicans had formed for them round their bars. Our public laundries were full of these poor victim-wives working all day long, neglecting their homes, even from one month after their confinements. Further, in a great number of cases an idler would make his wife lead an immoral life just to support himself as a fop in society. On the other hand a drunken and secretly profligate woman could neglect her home and family and make her husband responsible for all her extravagancies. Even where divorce was legal it was made so expensive that only the rich could sue for it ; where it was most required—that is, for the workman and the poor—it was made impossible.

" These matters are all changed ; the rule now followed more nearly resembles the Old German law, in which the first condition of continuity of married life is personal respectability. Where divorce is now allowed for neglect to provide for the home or ill-treatment by the husband, the case is made criminal and the husband is punished. If a man marries a woman, evidently, as facts show, for money and then neglects or ill-treats her, it is always considered a criminal case, wherein any money or property remaining is refunded to the wife with her divorce. Where divorce is permitted from the immorality of the

wife, the husband is set quite free of her without cost. The whole process in law is regulated throughout by the magistrates or on appeal by application to the States Local Free Courts.

"On one material point the possibility of divorce, under extreme circumstances, has produced a great increase in the number of legitimate marriages. At the beginning of the century more than half the number of men and women were unmarried. Incidentally the unfortunate marriage of a brother or a friend might withhold a man from what he had to consider as a great risk, when his natural desires, without this incident before him, would have prompted him to marry. Now that this risk of an entirely miserable life which may occur in the married state is withdrawn, a man may feel reasonable security for his future happiness in social union."

"One cannot see how you withhold the natural passions of humanity within narrow restrictive laws," the doctor said. "If you bar wedlock, in any way, you must open the door more widely to that which is more objectionable, with the ultimate result of an undesirable number of children of uncertain parentage, many of whom have to be supported under our poor laws."

"I did not wish to infer that the States Government consider that any other state of manhood is desirable except that of marriage, but at the same time it may possibly be held that marriage

is not in all cases, with human infirmities, politic. The state has, we know, to legislate for exceptional cases, sometimes where that which is natural is not conventional. In the case of uncertain parentage, these children are not so numerous at the present time as in the last century. Science has stepped in and done much.

"By our present laws where the mother is indifferent to her children or unable to keep them, they are taken over by the State and brought up humanely, under a certain amount of exposure to natural conditions to prove their strength. Many fail and die, particularly those born of unhealthy parents who have escaped our marriage laws, but the remainder live and come out fairly healthy creatures, capable of enjoying a useful life. If these children do not reach a certain standard of health when grown up they are sexually isolated on public works at home and abroad. The general advance already attained in human vigour and virtue through the interest taken in this subject appears at present to be immense, but still more may be hoped for. It is thought in time that many of the laws relating to restricted marriages will become unnecessary from the permanent advance in the vigour of our race.

"Great improvements have been made in the health and vigour of our intellectual children by translating the weaker ones, as, for instance, those with incipient lung disease, into suitable

climates where such diseases are unknown. Where the state is kind the parent is satisfied with that which is best for the child. The determination to promote the permanent advance in the vigour of our race may be almost estimated as a new virtue of our times (1950) but we have still the obstinate prejudices of the indifferent, ignorant and canting pious pretenders to convince.

"Beyond the general range of the subject before us the 'Social Permanent Advancement Society' has made some experiments in Paris with the object of producing, as they propose, a higher class of human beings. These experiments would not be understood except by philosophers specially devoted to the subject, and at best their work can only be taken to be in degree tentative. As it appears according to the Society's prospectus there is a possibility by careful intermarriage, founded upon a refined principle of what we may term legitimate breeding, to attain a higher intellectual, more moral, healthier and handsomer race of mankind than that which we now possess. Time alone must prove this. The present experiments permitted by the State in Paris, where marriage for social union was by no means universal, will be carefully watched by all humanitarians. I may give a sketch of a part of their proceedings."

Palace of Thought.—"The first object and aim of one branch of the Society is to bring about the marriage of persons of both sexes who have

attained eminence by their talents or genius in any direction of art, music, or science where the circumstances appear to be otherwise antagonistic to this object. A man or woman of genius may not be happy if placed tightly in the trammels of domestic life, but such arrangements may be made that they fulfil as perfectly as possible the functions of their being with the least possible interference with their important work. I will not enter into details of this complex department of the Society's work. The Society, for the carrying out of these objects, has, in Paris two large buildings with extensive grounds, which are called palaces. The one wherein the arrangement just mentioned is carried out is named 'The Palace of Thought.'"

PALACE OF LIFE.—"I may enter a little more into detail of another scheme of 'The Social Permanent Advance Society' carried out in Paris that is full of difficulty, which is directed intentionally to the suppression of vice, or rather, it would appear, to the amelioration of some vicious conditions which are known to exist, by scientific methods of marriage. This, as regards the female element of the social contract, is carried out almost entirely among the needy. The proceedings of the Society may be defended morally under the conditions that it is better to cure a social evil and save a life than to hide the evil and its consequences, which formerly ended com-

monly in miserable disease and the death of the victim. The Society look even beyond this to the possible improvement of the beauty and vigour of our race. This is a sketch of the scheme in the special department referred to:

"The Society in Paris, in the division of 'The Palace of Life,' devote particular attention to improving the health, beauty and vigour of the race. They invite poor girls of from seventeen to twenty-four years of age, of any nation, in perfect health, and of great beauty of form and face. They must have been before selection of general good character and intelligent mind, unless there are collateral circumstances which do not secure all these points but which make the selection otherwise desirable. The girls who are in adversity are only taken under the care of the Society under such conditions that they may be saved from a lost life, which ended formerly most commonly in disease and early death. As a result, by the present action of the Society we have now many of the loveliest and most gentle women, who would, under former conditions, be common to the streets of Paris, London and the great cities of Europe early in the century, fulfilling a higher legitimate social function than they would have fallen to, by assisting the Society to form a vigorous and handsome race by social union.

"Among the male element poverty is not a

necessary or desirable condition. Sober men of exceptional health and vigour, our great travellers, civil engineers, captains, commercial men and others, whose employment abroad or at sea left little time for the selection of suitable wives in their occasional visit to their country or their home, may now under the auspices of this Society have their affections satisfied without the greater part of their lives and that of their wives, being left lonely, fretful and unhappy from the loss of each other's natural society. Such men now commonly spend a part of their home-time in the Society's second palace and gardens which is termed 'The Palace of Life,' in which by prearranged agreement the wives, in sympathy with each other, devote their attention to rearing their own or their friends' children, in the intervals between their husbands' visits. The expenses of their stay, present and collateral, are entirely borne by the husbands, who visit or live for a period at the palace, in the same manner as they would in an hotel, but upon very moderate terms. No one can live in the palace without satisfactory references, which entirely excludes mere libertines married or single. The health, status and vigorous state of the man who enters is confirmed by the Society's physician at an interview before his entry.

"A man after two days' residence in the 'Palace of Life' may select a wife, with her mutual agree-

ment, whom he may take to himself under the protection of the Society after the legal ceremony of marriage. In this Society there becomes no necessity of forming a home or the purchase of furniture or other expenses, so that the woman is left free of encumbrances to follow her husband at a future time to a foreign country, if desirable to do so, to form her home when circumstances permit, at the same time leaving her children, if she has any, protected until it is convenient for them to follow their parents. Under this arrangement, the husband runs no risk of taking a wife upon impulse, who may prove afterwards to be of immoral character, which he was subjected to formerly, though unable to discover until his return visits to his native country.

" The Society, always holding the highest moral supreme, does not always attain its object in the manner this part of its original organization devised, but it does very often. Many men prefer to select their wives directly from the Society's protégées, whom they marry in their purity as the Society has taken them, and conduct them to a home they have provided often in our colonies, paying the Society's initial expenses. In this case as in others the characters of the man and woman are fully ascertained from family and other references before any arrangement is allowed.

" There is now an organization directly for this purpose also in England.

"It is impossible to go through details of this special work, which must be looked at purely from a scientific point of view; the object being to preserve the beautiful and virtuous among our poor young women from temptations. We have in this field also the powerful work of intellectual women of high character, who are helping to solve a great social problem in the best way, to preserve the pure elements of valuable life from the sad consequences to which it was exposed, that not uncommonly was instrumental in sapping the vigour of humanity. This the ladies do with good knowledge of the physics of health, by the pen, public speaking and earnest action. Any one can see that without their help the matter might drift entirely one-sided in a sexual sense. The experiments carried out in Paris are being attempted in London and other capitals so far as the separate state laws permit."

"Perhaps I am behind my times," the doctor said. "At any rate I cannot go with you in your loose definition of what you term *virtue*. The hundreds of fine and even beautiful young women that I have seen in the European capitals and large towns offering their affections as common property, I consider, do so from pure lewdness. I cannot see why they cannot lead a proper life if they please to do so. Even young ladies that have fallen to a lower estate by misfortune might take their places as workmen's wives."

"In the first place," the poet replied, "there could not be a greater mistake than to presume that a woman brought up as a lady could undertake the severe drudgery necessary for a workman's wife, without loss of health, and consequent incapacity; even if her knowledge of the economy of poor housekeeping were sufficient. Neither is the working man so foolish as to marry a lady unless she provides means to keep him. As I have always lived among the lower classes I have known their sorrows and have wept over them, seeing these poor creatures were as helpless and unhappy as I was myself at the time. The permissive experiments of the Society we are speaking about, dictated by the highest moral intention, unfortunately do not extend as far as their wishes to do good, therefore they can only become selective of special cases. Experience alone teaches wisdom. If we are wrapped in comfort ourselves we look upon all the world as being comfortable. Further, even the most humane man, woman, or society of such, doing their best to help poor humanity along, may possibly only have the power to elevate a small section just a little. In apology for assisting beauty under its temptations we may say—

> "Plainness may go in safety along
> In paths where beauty oft goes wrong."

"The great failure in the past of attempts to

regulate the condition of social union among the needy class was due to the pure selfishness and hypocrisy of the well-to-do self-asserting philanthropist and to ignorance of what may be the divine purpose of our natural affections. The first natural law of all life is the preservation or continuity of species, man or other. The wealthy man can build his home and take his wife, but there are exceptions even to this; but with the poor the exceptions are nearly equal to the rules. The fool says 'stop the natural instincts in the unsettled and the poor as being inconvenient to society.' Nature asserts that her laws are higher than the selfishness of a class, and if suppressed in public they will assert themselves in private. Therefore the wise man says 'It is our policy to let the law direct the impulses of our nature with fair consideration to secure the best political ends.'

"I have no patience," the doctor replied, "with those who transgress our conventional moral laws which they well understand. They should therefore be punished in themselves as they are by nature, and obliged to be by law."

"I think that is too much to say. Our duty to life, as a gregarious family, is sympathy with all mankind. Sorrow and sin are perforce frequent bedfellows. There is always sorrow present, often caused by thoughtlessness. My lady Fashion may wear artificial flowers for many years and the worker be singing over her work in which she

has learned to be perfect to earn her bread. My lady Fashion may grow weary and despise the former fashionable flowers, and the worker may starve. It will be the same if my lady Fashion takes to feathers, or silk, or ribbons, or lace. With workmen the chain, the locket, the brooch, or the bracelet, each of which requires a special trained worker, may be in fashion or be despised. The machine may supersede trained hand work as it often does and leave the worker lost. The artist may see his occupation gone by a change of fashion in style or the discovery of a photo-process. The greatest struggles are mostly unforeseen, and poverty feels no law. Once in a life, if you had spent forty-eight hours without food, with plenty around you, within your sight, or shivered a winter through but thinly clad, when you knew that my lord and lady could carelessly tread upon a carpet made with wool enough to cover a hundred shivering creatures like yourself, you might then look savagely upon the selfishness of man or even doubt the justice of your God. When hunger like a reptile in the body gnaws the bowels and the heart, or cramp or rheumatism from cold bumps up the muscles and tears the sinews thread by thread, with infinite torture, refined humanity is lost. Then for relief from pain a man or woman may sell his or her body or brains for any purpose that it is saleable: Both would sell their bones

and skin if cheaper wooden frames and leather sacks could be bought with the money, just enough to buy food to carry on a vegetable-like existence. Seeing all hopeless—some can die bravely by suicide, or shiver on peaceably to death in starvation's fangs. Some vile cowards cannot, but cringe for help in some way to gain a little more of weary painful life, even if by any sin. That is the reason why a poor, weak, and sinful, wretched lot of us are left to crawl the surface of the earth."

The poet had evidently drifted from 1950 into the present, by which it was clear the hypnotic effect had passed off. The doctor tried to revive the period by suggesting he did not wish to know anything of the past, but it was evident the poet's mind was weary. He replied—

"Yes! I know our laws are now (1950) more severe in some cases, but they are also more kind. They never enact a penalty without a power of protection to avoid it, particularly for the crimes that were formerly due to want, but—

> "See the sunlit day has passed,
> The crimson curtains of the west
> Are deepening in tone."

The doctor woke the poet. He was too impatient to hear his poetry. Indeed he thought the séance had been a failure. The hypnotism had not taken its normal effect. Indigestion,

perhaps, due to the roast pork dinner his landlady had provided. He could see in the poet the influences of very objectionable Continental manners, the introduction of which he always deplored. What was beauty which he tried to extol in comparison with goodness which could never be ugly. He entirely doubted the morals of the Permanent Advancement Society, and the suggestion of their lines of procedure bearing any possible relation to the Salvation Army was a pure libel. He certainly would reintroduce the subject when the poet was in a better state. This he was never able to do from reasons to be stated in the last chapter. We students thought from what the doctor told us, more in detail than here set forth, that the poet's inspirations, as he pleased to call them, were those derived from the immoral fumes from an overcrowded London slum, of which we felt the facts would be better hidden beneath our social blushes.

## TENTH SÉANCE

CHARITY.—"Towards the end of the last century," the doctor said, "there were very considerable funds left by benevolent persons for various purposes, as for instance by a Mr. Peabody, for providing homes for working men and poor persons. These homes became very popular until such high

rents were charged for lodgings in them that one would think they would pay a very high percentage upon the money invested. Yet these homes did not appear to increase to so great an extent that a workman in London could enjoy a low rental. How is this, that they were not more reproductive ?

" No one has doubt of the integrity of the management of these and many other charities, but the success of any undertaking is due to the interest taken in it, and no one will guard these interests by the necessary attention, so well as those who benefit by them. These matters rest at present in the hands of the Charity Commissioners, but the working men have now formed a committee of vigilance, in which they have the assistance of a chartered accountant to guard their interests, which has brought about certain improvements. Many of the poorer club-houses are now entirely rent free, through accumulated funds, except for the payment of local rates and cost of general management."

" The arrangements of club-life of which you have given some details at a previous séance, are for the strong and capable. You must still have among you the blind, deaf, crippled, aged, infirm and diseased, who were maintained through the instrumentality of our Poor Laws and by public or private charity."

" True ! " the poet replied. " The poor, we

know, have always much need of sympathy and help. Kindness, I think, is greater now than heretofore, but more in order, by the unity of its separate members working together for the public good. We now say—

> "Open thine arms, dear Charity,
> Heal the saddest wounds of fate,
> But leave thy work a warranty
> Of better life, and better state."

"*Universal charity* carried to its ultimate issue, if not regulated systematically, means *universal poverty*. The State at the present time is more zealous in preventing the spread of poverty, crime, disease, and human imperfections than formerly. The social right of help in need is now practically (not legally) placed under the direction of the 'Society for Protection of Humanity.' This society includes many of our most able philosophers. It is largely supported by the State. An invitation is sent by the Council of the Society to every great moralist, who appears among us, to become a member. The membership is recognized by the public as a great honour for any lady or gentleman to hold.

"The great object of this society, which forms a section of the Permanent Advancement Society, is to place humanity beyond the need of charity by ceasing to propagate its saddest elements, by accepting the aid of scientific methods in granting the necessary assistance to the poor. The work

of the society naturally divides itself into several sections, for which there are established special committees which take up the separate cases. We have, therefore, separate committees for the blind, deaf, imbecile, crippled and otherwise defective from birth. These cases have been generally met with consideration for the future advancement of the race by a humane principle of personal isolation. With the aid of state laws the experiments originated by the society have proved a great success.

" The blind have a large area in the country, which is rocky and of little value for agriculture, but otherwise very healthy. After childhood the men have no female society except that of elderly women past maternity, who feel the duty of attending to the blind a pleasure. The women have male society only when they have passed the age of maternity. We have now few cases of congenital blindness. If blindness comes from an accident, it does not come under the care of this special section of the Blind Committee. The blind are treated with the greatest care by the State, and their personal enjoyment is considered in every possible way. It is hoped this human affliction, so far as it is congenital, as it has decreased greatly at the present time, may die out through the attention now devoted to it.

" We very generally recognize at the present time that the charity societies which were formerly

instituted for the preservation and perpetuation of defective humanity, laboured under serious mistakes as regards the advancement of our race and of the happiness of their living individual members, which could only, possibly, be secured by health, and the full use of the human faculties. Take as an instance the blind. About the middle of the last century institutions were very popular to teach the blind to work. The trade selected specially for the experiment upon a large scale was that of basket-making. At this time our British basket-makers were unequalled. After awhile, within a short time, baskets were made by the blind in large quantities with public money. These baskets, although inferior, undersold those of the former makers, and the public in charity bought them, with the result that the legitimate trade, which was a poor one, died out. In time the public lost faith in the imperfectly made baskets, although these were very good considering that they were made by the blind, and French baskets, which were as good as our former English ones, were imported under free trade, and entirely superseded our best English work. The only effect that rested with us is that we had the defective human blind beings living in place of the more perfect ones who were starved out, who might have enjoyed life better without the presence of a constant grief, to our national loss.

"Similar institutions to those provided for the

blind are now established for the deaf and dumb, but in this case the beauty of the scenery of the country is duly considered by the State.

"Lunacy and idiocy are treated, as the other infirmities of defective humanity mentioned above, by personal isolation. No partial cures in the persons of any lunatics are left to free intercourse, so that now there is no fear of after blood-stain. It has been duly ascertained that mental infirmities are commonly hereditary, if they are not due to consanguinity, so that by the humane care taken at present they are slowly disappearing from our race. The great struggle has been in fighting with pious ignorant persons who, under the pretence of charity, have tried all possible means to prevent scientific methods of extermination of this sad disease."

Provision for Age.—"With regard to old age, this is entirely provided for. Our taxes are sufficient, but personal providence is in no way neglected. We have State provident funds to which a man may subscribe according to scale. These secure to him in his a gea position above the State poor grade, as for instance, this may permit him the continuity of occupation at his club after fifty-five years of age, when he is presumed to leave off hard labour, or other privileges his prudence may have secured to him. All provident funds have State assistance, and are investigated for soundness of basis and for perfect security by the Government.

"The majority of professional and working men, whose lives have been spent in town, who have not acquired independent means, prefer to retire to the seaside or to a country village home, of which there are a great many founded upon the club system for men and women of similar tastes. That which we see before us is the picturesque 'Artists' Club Village.' In the background we see a fine building which contains twenty studios where poor artists still carry on work for amusement or for profit. Other villages have in like manner the objects which the special inclination of the profession or trade with which they are associated demands. Even to the high-class club villages, a man or woman may subscribe from early in life to one of these institutions to which he or she may retire by right at the age of fifty-five, for a small annual payment. It frequently happens that subscribers do not require assistance, or that there is no desire to retire so early in life, or from family assistance, individual success, or other causes, the village home may not be needed. In these cases, of course, the past subscriptions practically lighten the burdens of the general fund."

Pauperism.—"Late in the last century," the doctor said, "we had a large population of idlers and drunkards who hung about our streets so long as their wives would work, or charity would keep them, and failing this, they drifted into the

workhouses. These persons and their children, who followed in their footsteps, could not have been of any value to the State."

"These persons," the poet replied, "were a result of our Poor Laws, which maintained the worthless, and of inquisitive charity which prevented any system of intelligent correction. If a man spent all his wages in drink the good charitable people would feed his children and look after his wife, and in old age provide a comfortable home for him. By State law, charity is now organized so that it cannot do mischief. If a husband does not keep his wife he is isolated by the State, and made to work for her upon State work, such as levelling barren hills, reclaiming land from the sea, and other useful work. If he will not do his work, he runs short of food. If he does not save when he can it is to his loss. If coercion does not succeed with an idler he is isolated on an island where he has to work or perish. In cases where the wife suffers from her husband's cruelty and indifference to her wants and those of her family, divorce is permitted, as before stated. These laws enable the State to take the necessary measures to entirely suppress pauperism. There are many details too complex to follow, but upon the whole the laws are prospectively more humane than they were early in the century. The poor remain with us always. If there is a spare loaf wherewith to feed a creature

one will surely live to eat it. All we can do by law is to make the creature deserve it."

Food Supplies.—"With regard to the very poor, their condition is much improved by the advance of science, our universal friend. Through the accuracy of analysis in modern chemistry a perfect synthesis of many food products has been made, and to this has been added the very advanced knowledge of the physiology of digestion; so that now we have biscuits, flavoured to the palate, one of which, with a glass of water, forms a solid wholesome meal. Those before us of such pretty burnt brown colour weigh a tenth of a kilogramme. Every biscuit possesses sufficient nutriment for a perfect meal. There are many varieties of these biscuits made, not only as food for the poor, but to suit the palate even of epicures adapted to certain conditions of the constitution and the state of health of the consumer, so as to form perfect nourishment. They are all made in large factories under the direction of practical chemists. Each of the biscuits before us is equal in value to a penny of our former money. These biscuits therefore are adapted to supply all our direct necessities at a small cost. There are now also open houses spread throughout the country where any one may sit down and eat a wholesome food biscuit and have a glass of pure water without cost, so that there can be no possibility of starvation. The wealthy have their costly

dinners as heretofore, but still, as the chemically prepared food is the more wholesome and is made pleasant to the palate, this, in some form, is commonly eaten by the guests. Luxury in wines still exists, but as there are few, in our present age, who are not total abstainers from childhood, little alcohol is drunk. Fruit, fresh and preserved, is much eaten. It is now grown largely on the former agricultural lands, and on walls formed upon our barren hill-sides."

The doctor suggested a doubt of the chemical preparation of food.

The poet replied somewhat angrily: "What a poor ending of all our chemic art if the chemist of the future could not put enough nitro-hydro-carbon, with a little chlorine, lime, soda, iron, phosphorus, and sulphur together with water, in proper form to supply the constant waste of our poor watery bodies. From certain apparently coarse earths ages ago man has extracted the finest steel, and now aluminium from poor sad clay. Could he not in the last century make all our sugar, whisky, and brandy from the poor beetroot, with just a little of a coal-tar product flavouring? Why should not the chemist synthesize the plentiful elements of food in nature to supply the natural growth and waste of man to maintain his health and vigour? Does not the great chemist of life, our almighty sun, turn all the filthy dross of decayed life-stuff through

vegetation into living food? Why may not man by his intelligence imitate the works of nature? Of late years a large element of good wholesome food has been produced from coal refuse and shale at the mouths of the coal pits. We now make our salad oil and butter, and even palatable neo-albuminoids, from a process of oxycarborization of ammonia."

LUXURIES.—"Then I presume all our former luxuries in food, as we formerly thought them to be, are left to run to ruin and waste?" the doctor asked.

"Not in the least degree," the poet replied. "What were formerly our unwholesome luxuries, through the contamination of our sea shores, are now wholesome ones and their production is highly developed. Observe that large floating mass which appears in the distance to be a small island. We may just read the title, 'The Arctic Fish Preserving Works Company.' It is really a large iron vessel of oval horizontal form, of about 600 by 300 metres of main deck surface. It is propelled by sails with auxiliary electro-chemical power, which is used as much for heating the three tiers of workshops above the deck as for propelling it. This vessel is slowly sailed to the White Sea in summer time, accompanied by its auxiliary boats. It is used for collecting salmon, cod, turbot, halibut, and other fish for preserving. There is on the deck a complete manufactory for preserving cans,

made of thin sheets of a zinc alloy which now takes the place of tin-plates. The cans are lined with an antiseptic paper. Fish cleaning, boiling, baking, smoking, filling-in, labelling, packing, etc., are all done on board, so that some millions of kilogrammes of nice wholesome food is produced every open season, ready to be dispersed to all parts of the world. We have also equally large fresh fish preserving works where the fish just caught is packed in refrigerating chambers, which are surrounded by double walls packed full of Arctic ice, which is supplied to the chambers from the deck as it melts. These refrigerated vessels are brought into port at the end of the season and unloaded slowly to meet demand.

"Another large supply of agreeable wholesome food is produced by the lobster, crab, and oyster fields which we now see along the west coasts of Scotland and Ireland. Witness this large bay closed in by a distant breakwater over the mouths of which there are movable wire nettings. These are lobster fields. The lobsters are fed upon fish offal brought in from the fish preserving works both from those on land and from the floating fish vessels already described. The chalk piled rocks seen at intervals in the bay are artificial, as the water contains too little lime for the development of the lobster. In some very large crab farms, food is supplied from the bodies of Arctic sharks, white whales, porpoises, and other depre-

datory animals which are cut up and distributed. The extermination of these animals, useless to man, has become systematic.

"The lobsters and crabs are not allowed to feed on putrid food as they did formerly in a wild state, which often caused injurious effects upon the consumers. They are also now boiled upon the farms. By our refined laws it is not legal that a lobster or crab should be sent long distances alive, or be allowed to die slowly in agony upon the fishmongers' stalls. Further, being cooked in the state they are best fitted to form wholesome food, they are much more digestible and agreeable to the palate. At the present time, by sending a post remittance to the farm the day before requirement a beautiful lobster or crab is delivered by post the following morning in time for lunch.

"Oysters are now fed in suitable open sea beds with cheaply prepared food, and are perfectly wholesome, having their pure water flavour as at the beginning of the last century. We have also large farms for supplying eggs and poultry only distributed over our mountain sides.

"Another large branch of food supply is that of the mushroom, of which we have, through culture, obtained new varieties of very refined flavour. This is at present quite a branch of agriculture dealing in a wholesome way with a large quantity of town refuse. Upon the whole, much less animal food is eaten. From our great advance-

ment in the culture of culinary vegetables and fruits, very nice and highly nutritious food is provided. In the pulse tribe alone—peas, beans, and others—in its present improved state, sufficient nitrogenous food is found to form simple meals, to support healthy life. With health and good digestion all wholesome food is palatable, but even the poor can have gustative refinements if they will, as all food is cheap and the wealthy make a point of being less selfish than they were in the last century. Indeed, with a great number of persons there is the strong feeling of justice so as to be equal with all their fellows in dress and living—

Humanity feeling,
Charity healing,
Still our song.
Love appealing,
Devotion dealing
With every wrong."

## ELEVENTH SÉANCE

SICKNESS.—"In our last interview," the doctor said, "we discussed wholesome food, but this, although a prime factor of health, could not have prevented contagious diseases, of which we used to say, "flesh is heir to."

"Certainly not," the poet replied, "but by following hygienic conditions, much sickness is preventable, or at least is ameliorated under systematic regulations. At present all cases of

sickness are under State control, including hospital cases, which are under the medical branch of the Charity Commissioners. It is now understood that the health of the people is one great source of their usefulness. England has been divided into medical districts, each containing two thousand persons in closely populated parts, and one thousand in open districts, these being the 'extreme numbers.' A single doctor superintends each district, with an assistant under him capable of taking his place at any time. In the rare cases of epidemics, the State sends specialists to the infected district.

"Doctors with the highest qualification and full previous hospital practice are provided by the State. They have good fixed salaries and dwellings, and are not allowed to take any gratuities. This is certified by their honour or promise. In illness medical advice is compulsory to all. In infectious diseases special hospitals or divisions of hospitals are provided. Every one willingly puts himself or herself under this special medical care, as it is the quickest and best possible means of effectual cure. The apothecary, who remains daily in his store, is a qualified practitioner. He dispenses within a prescribed limit drugs for small ailments entirely at State cost, and advises hospital treatment when desirable. Illness is exceptional now; the race has become so much more healthy. In cases of lung diseases the

patient is sent to a climate where it may be arrested, and remains there if his or her return home would bring a return of the symptoms. There are private doctors, but they are not generally men of mark, as the honour of a high position under the Government, which can only be obtained by examination through merit, is much coveted. Fools still swallow quack medicines as heretofore, and many are lost.

"The number of public baths and the compulsory early training in swimming keeps the youth of both sexes healthy, supplemented as it is by the necessary gymnastics for properly developing and strengthening the body. This, with the early trained knowledge of the physiology of the human body, organized healthy amusements, with vigorous exercise, and advanced instruction in science and art, gives occupation until perfect development of manhood and womanhood is attained, so that marriage is generally deferred until the period of a perfectly vigorous stage of life.

"The great causes of our former unhealthy state were over-eating, over-drinking, social immoralities, and the poisonous effects of constantly taking drugs. We gave our strong natures no chance of a perfect condition. Over-eating suffused our blood-vessels, causing gout, apoplexy, and other ailments by which the natural exercise for the body became impossible. Smoking and

drinking muddled the brain and dulled the healthy action of the nerves. Drugs weakened the digestive system and diseased the bowels. The evils of these things are now inculcated in early education, so that many of our temperate children will now pass from babyhood to old age without indigestion or tasting alcohol or drugs of any kind."

"The perfect analysis of food and the knowledge of its power to give vital energy suitable for the individual constitution of any person secure healthy growth. If you look at the men and women that pass us, trained in intelligence, you see quite an improvement in the healthy appearance of the race in comparison with the accounts we have of society at the beginning of the century. It is anticipated that one hundred years of age will be quite commonly reached by those born at the present time. Many live now some years beyond this."

VACCINATION.—"The broad study of hygienic conditions and the advance of medicine have now rendered vaccination unnecessary and undesirable. At the beginning of the century it stood as a censure on medical science 'that a disease should be inoculated merely to prevent another disease.' At the present time small-pox, which is very rare, is quite curable, and its infection can be guarded against so that very few cases remain. Therefore vaccination has become unscientific. It has passed away in the same category as bleed-

ing, cupping, and leeching, and strong aperients, which were insisted upon by the medical profession a century ago.

"Further, now that statistics of vaccination are well known, it is found that cow-pox, as a disease, weakens the constitution. The epidemics measles, whooping-cough, and chicken-pox, which commonly followed vaccination in the young, who had not a very strong constitution, are found to be better resisted by insuring a better constitution, that is, one not previously inoculated with any disease, cow-pox or other. These, what were termed early diseases, are now also known to be preventable if a high tone of childhood health is conserved by hygienic conditions being duly recognized and followed."

CEMETERIES—CREMATION.—"Another means of protecting the health of the people is found in the entire isolation of the cemeteries from towns. Observe this chalk-down cemetery. The land here was of little value for agriculture; lime was ready to hand by burning the chalk. Every body is here cemented in its tomb after disinfection with arsenic and lime compounds, and as the tombs are filled up the body is cemented in deeply below the surface. See the flowers grow profusely above the tunnel mouths of the closed graves, which contain ten thousand bodies. There is no trace of unpleasant odour. It is by such care that we insure the public health, but this can only

be attained through scientific knowledge and forethought as we see it here displayed.

"You notice the south-eastern fronts of the downs are now peach walls—very valuable, as fruit is much eaten. These were utilized for the purpose, as it was thought to be more healthy to open the downs for the tombs towards the north only. Quite ten metres of undisturbed chalk is left behind the peach walls, which have a Portland cement coating, so that there is no possible connexion with the effluvia, if there is any, arising from the bodies. The entrances of the cemeteries are at least five hundred metres distant from the peach walls.

"The whole of our sanitary arrangements in this and other matters is placed under the direction of certificated, qualified medical men, assisted by civil engineers equally qualified by scientific training to carry out the work."

The doctor suggested cremation as the tendency of science at the beginning of the century. The poet replied: "This must in all cases be limited. The effluvia of nitrogenous gases arising from a cremated body was proved in all cases to vitiate the air. To a limited extent it was not noticed. At present cremation is restricted to rock islands set apart for the purpose. Still the effluvia can be scented at sea—and it cannot be suggested that it is wholesome."

The doctor suggested that he did not consider

either system that they had discussed satisfactory to the natural feelings of the many. To preserve the dead and venerate their tombs was of the most venerable antiquity.

" It is a sentiment," the poet replied, " which is largely satisfied in the great Suffolk Down Cemetery before us, where we see many monuments raised to the formerly illustrious and the wealthy dead, as well as private tombs. These are what we may term superficial burials, the taste for which is fading fast into history. By law in superficial burial the outer coffin must be of ironstone earthenware, hermetically sealed, and the body must be surrounded by lime or cement (plaster of Paris). There is one interesting point about this method, that should the body be disinterred at a distant period, its form would be perfectly preserved by the mould that the cement forms about it. The absolute tombs are sunk not less than three metres below the surface, and are filled in with coal ashes. No perceptible effluvia can be detected even by refined chemical tests." The poet broke off abruptly. " But—

" What are the dead,
The poor or great,
To fear or love or hate ?
Bodies that rot
Where souls are not.
Only our work can live,
Or any useful precept give
Worthy to be led."

## TWELFTH SÉANCE.

TELEPHONE—PHONOGRAPH.—"I presume there is great development of the telephone and phonograph?"

"This was certain. The telephone is now used in every house of importance, and in every reception room of large houses, so that you may communicate with a friend anywhere. It now speaks out with natural voice. From the number of gossiping friends a man might think it would be a nuisance, but as we may now put the phonograph recorder on the telephone and take our communications at leisure we can reply when we think fit; to erase the record we have only to put it in a mould and boil it in water. We may put our telephone in communication with the opera, theatre or a lecture in any part of the world, so that if a troublesome friend wants to gossip he may find we are in communication elsewhere. We have by-word shunts known at the exchange station, so that we need not lose important communications. The alphabetical district system, A.A., A.B., etc., divides England into 1,600 districts, wherein the letters give the district, and the number following specializes the individual. Dr. Forkner, whom you see there, is S.Q. 4.794 on the British telephone. Phonographic letters, sent by post, are now general. It is often found much more pleasant to hear a

dear friend's voice from our pocket phonograph than it would be to read his letters. One pleasant improvement is that you may set up a phonograph band reel containing a fine metal band of aluminium, and have a tale, a play or other literary work read to you in the natural voice of an eloquent reader, as you recline in an easy chair. Here are Dickens' tales, price two florins a reel, that is two florins each tale, which may be read off audibly, or even eloquently by your pocket telephone."

Science Generally.—The doctor asked to have some idea of the advance of science generally. The poet replied that the subject was too large for discussion as there was science in every possible factor of human work—for instance, the production of light. Here the radial energy required for the phosphorescent glow lamp is very small, but by its means we have sufficient light at little cost. Then heat, that is temperature, by what is termed conservative combustion, we have also at little cost, but details of this and other abstruse work could only be described by learned treatises on the special subject of which we have now many."

> "Nature her power to science lends,
> To shape our works to all our ends."

Capital and Labour.—There appeared over the last query to be a little bewilderment in the poet's mind, so the doctor changed the subject.

"At the commencement of the century (1900), my dear Theodore, there had been for many years a gradual decline in the value of capital. How far did this proceed?"

"Sound investments," the poet replied, "may still be made at one per cent. The banker now makes a charge to the depositor for the trouble of banking, unless his constant balance be exceptionally large. A man's savings form a fund for his future necessities, not an income without constant loss of his capital. The national debt being paid, the Government does not now borrow money. Gold is now so plentiful that its value is much reduced, and as a matter of convenience it is very little handled. The little celluloid cards we carry now take its place. They show redeemable value printed through in a manner that can never be erased nor imitated.

"The legitimate trade allowance for a man speculating his money in a large business is five per cent. All beyond this must go to the labour-money fund. This percentage was fixed by the 'Rights of Labour' organization, which has Acts of Parliament to support it. By universal suffrage the labouring man has always the majority of representation, so that he is well armed to hold his own and keep the capitalist in the way he intends him to go. Workmen in some branches of trade have tried to reduce the percentage of the trading capitalist by forming co-operative

concerns of their own. These have all failed. We find now, just as heretofore, that the spouting man, who has power to lead the more quiet workers politically, is generally himself an idler—very unfitted for active business. As he talked well it was assumed by workmen he could govern well. This is not realized, so the active, unpretending master mind still rules, although he is now more trammelled by trade rules and must legally have his books open for the inspection of his workmen at certain times. The subject is still unsettled."

HOURS OF WORK.—"You mentioned last Thursday," the doctor said, "that five hours a day for five days a week were the ordinary hours of labour. It struck me that such fixed hours would be very slavish. It cannot be a law for all. For myself I prefer to work eight hours a day at least."

"Five hours as a day's work has been fixed by the 'Rights of Labour' Society, for continuous indoor work, and a larger amount cannot be enforced unless under special circumstances. It would only be ridiculous if the rule were made for all kinds of work. A painter or mason or a bricklayer, for instance, can only work to advantage in summer time and in fine weather. In inclement weather, in heavy rains or in frost, he cannot work at all unless under cover. If his employment is day-work it stands nominally, according

to the society's rules, at five hours a day, but he may work in such trades as mentioned above more than the indoor trade-day, or even a double day, in fine summer weather. His work must never exceed in any year his time lost out of the working season, to make it equal to five hours a day. As intermittent working trades have much winter leisure, there is no compulsory holiday fund, reserved by the masters for a fortnight in the country in the summer, as there is with indoor working trades.

"In many societies' rules, the indoor-worker may work in the busy season overtime to the extent, in exceptional cases, of a second five-hour day, that is ten hours in a day, but the wages above the five-hour day are directed by the societies' rules to be given compulsorily over to a provident fund bank, where the money is placed to the workman's credit for sickness or old age. Many workmen strive to increase this personal fund, upon which the State allows a cumulative dividend of one per cent., so that the worker may retire in early life, say at forty-five instead of fifty-five years of age, which may be the special society's limit of working life time.

"It may not be quite clear to you how it is that five hours a day for the worker is found to be amply sufficient to supply all our wants, which have now been perfectly systematized. In the commencement of this century we were not only performing much of our work, which was

considered to be perfect drudgery when done by hand, by self-acting machinery, even to such details as washing, starching and ironing our linen, but we had also self-acting machines that nearly made the practical machines to do the work. It is in this direction that many of our labours have been made very light and expeditious, which would not have been thought possible early in the century. This is only a continuity of principles well known. Further, there is the important item of division of labour for all work carried to further issue. When Adam Smith wrote his *Wealth of Nations*, 1775, he estimated that a man working singly could not make more than twenty pins a day (possibly an underestimate), but that it was found by dividing the manufacture of pins into eighteen branches with trained workmen to each branch, ten men could make 48,000 pins a day, or equal to 4,800 each. By the advance made at the beginning of the century, a single self-acting machine would turn out as many in two hours as one man in a day, and four or five such machines could be tended by a girl or boy, so that time was saved more than one hundred fold. In the same direction we have proceeded till the present, and as our wants are very similar in each family, it is only distribution that is required, and this again has met with great refinement. At the same time, if you have few hours work you have many hours leisure,

and this to the cultivated active mind means many hours of hobby-work, which is generally of the greatest refinement, so that although labour time is legally shortened, intellectual work-time is proportionately lengthened.

"Despite all trade rules, social individual freedom is secured by the State for all men. A man may work and not join any labour society. His independence is often very clearly for the public good. A workman may invent a method or a machine that saves much of his labour and that of others following him. He may be a natural artist or a musician or a writer and give delight by his works, which circumstances cannot be controlled by trade rules. In many ways certain men may be of greater social interest and value in doing mental work than in doing hand work. Indeed there is nothing so slavish or disadvantageous to the community as uniformity, which is now generally acknowledged.

"Further, the laws of the State now particularly recognize the value of invention and high mental work. Our patent laws are now brought to the same position as copyright laws were formerly. The State, instead of fleecing the poor inventor as much as possible, to increase the State revenue, now offers him help to establish a useful invention, and makes search for him at public cost to provide information which may prevent him wasting his time and money upon

an idea or invention which may already have failed upon trial. This is true State policy and increases our wealth. Further, the State confers an inalienable right in a patent upon the inventor by giving him no power of sale which can exclude him from less than five per cent. of the profits derived from the invention, should it become afterwards a very successful manufacture in other hands. This protection is valuable, as the inventor is rarely a commercial man."

RIGHTS OF LABOUR.—"Work in my early days was constantly subject to strikes," the doctor said. "Has any remedy been found?"

"Strikes were due to want of a proper understanding between workmen and master. All kinds of work are now recognized at fixed value. A man cannot be idle without paying a penalty for it. The master is satisfied if the workman performs his fair share of work, and the workman with the fixed scale the trade agrees to. This avoids possibility of strikes. There is nothing at present held to be so detestable as Socialism promoted by ignorance, which was active at the commencement of the century, in trying to obtain for the idler the privileges of the active and for the spendthrift those of the prudent and careful. The rule is now one of intelligence. We recognize that some men are fitted to organize the work of others for the general good; that some are more prudent and careful of wealth, and

therefore should by right possess it. Intelligent and prudent men rise above the working classes and are recognized by the committees of the 'Rights of Labour' as worthy of being leading men. So that by a general system of equity the folly of strikes and lock-outs is avoided.

"In labour we have happiness and health. The blacksmith, in wielding his hammer, has pleasant exercise for his body and interest for his mind in his skill in shaping the red-hot iron. His pleasurable muscular sensation is of higher grade than that of the poor weak club-loafer, billiard-player or general life-waster. But labour is not the only source of happiness to the worker: refinement should come with rest. One need not always wield the hammer for healthy happiness. We may in rest enjoy things of lighter touch by means of public entertainers, writers, speakers, painters, and musicians, who are better qualified to amuse and instruct than the labourer. The pen, the tongue, the brush, the fiddle-stick will ever move the sentient world with pleasure as of old.

"As the result of the recognition of the dignity of every working man there is more and more public spirit constantly infused into us. The men who can only work to accumulate great wealth for personal aggrandizement are fewer now than formerly. If a man uses his acquisitions well he is respected. The public good alone

meets public approbation. A man is happier in this public approbation than he was formerly in the ostentatious entertainment of a few friends. There is now great zeal for doing public good. Even in the last century, and early in this, successful men, particularly in and from the United States of America, endowed colleges, built observatories and founded institutions for general advancement—Peabody, Carnegie and others. Now this public-interest-feeling is generally rife amongst us. We all do what we can, which produces immense results, with good feelings between the worker and the saver. We have now public institutions, that are free, for every form of instruction and amusement, also sumptuous baths and libraries everywhere, where class meets class on equally friendly terms."

Domestic Servants.—" I may mention another burning matter," the doctor said. " At the commencement of the century domestic servants who possessed human faults were very commonly treated as slaves by hard mistresses, and there was a generally implied warfare between the mistress and the maid."

" The enfranchisement of women," the poet replied, " gave them a vote for members of Parliament when they were over twenty-one years of age. This produced necessarily many changes that ameliorated the condition of women. By higher education they became also more sentient

and intelligent, and asserted the right of fair enjoyment of life. They now generally live separate from the houses in which they do domestic work. They have their clubs and society rules. Five hours is the fixed time for the day's work as with men. Nurses and others who would find this arrangement inconvenient or impossible make their own society rules, which are sensible and acceptable to their employers. Men servants are fewer, and generally hold higher official positions.

"It is easily seen that the club system entails less domestic work. The idle woman (or lady as she was formerly termed) is scarce. The club-houses are fitted with all modern labour-saving conveniences. There is relatively very little domestic work compared with what there was in the early part of the century. A healthy wife or daughter does her housework in a few hours a day. In sickness and babydom a servant is necessary. Where a woman is employed by brain or hands in a special business, a servant who is well paid may be profitable. Female servants generally work by the hour, the lowest fixed price being ten cents, equal to two shillings an hour. In ordinary club-houses one domestic will generally be sufficient for ten families. Some families require much attention, some little or none. Children above three years of age are generally kept by day in the infant, or higher schools according to age. The early part of

life is spent in social intelligent play in which one nurse or teacher can take care of thirty or more little children, in suitable playgrounds with good toys. In the club system a great saving is made in cooking, even where chemical food is not consumed. One cook in three hours can cook a nice dinner for forty persons, or more, with modern labour-saving appliances. Altogether there is a general economy in menial work, accompanied by a higher status for the domestic servant than formerly. In the poorer clubs the wives and daughters do the necessary domestic work entirely without servants, but much of it is made light by scientific apparatus—heating and lighting, hot water fittings, public washing by machinery, etc."

EMIGRATION.—"Early in the century," the doctor said, "the prosperity of a worker depended very much upon the sufficiency of work for him or her to do. As the workers increased the difficulty, one would think, became greater."

"At the present time," the poet replied, "the workman of European extraction is found in all parts of the world. By a system of emigration placed under the direction of practical intelligent consuls our surplus population is drained off, so that no more than sufficient workers are left in this country. The young men of enterprise rush to our Colonial possessions and Anglo-free states. Further, our young women have also their work

organized for them abroad, so that there remains at present no marked inequality in the numbers of the sexes at home or abroad. There is work and opportunities for the success of all industrious persons. The great lever of society is wise political organization at home and abroad, which has been the special work of our present century."

"The world is free o'er which we roam
And make each fruitful vale our home,
A happy home! with frugal wife,
In perfect peace of human life.
With pastures spreading o'er the plain,
Where plenty evermore may reign,
Our children play, with room to play,
Our night is passed! It is the day!"

## THIRTEENTH SÉANCE.

SPORT.—"It would strike one from what you told me last week about the horseless carriages," the doctor said, "that the horse would cease to be a domestic animal, and we should lose a dear old friend. How about the races? It would be interesting to know the present ideas of sport."

"The horse remains as heretofore," the poet replied, "a constant friend of man. He needs no prepared roads for his foot-hold. He climbs the natural hills and crosses the brooks. His work is now less only on the busy roads and in towns. Racing is still held to be jolly sport, its object

being to improve the breed of horses. It is practised with less cruelty to the horse than formerly. The racehorse is now left to become more mature before he is allowed to run, and carries a man of average weight. The purely sporting element has certainly declined. Betting is abolished by law. We do not see the skulking scoundrel or 'bookmaker,' as he was termed early in the century, posing as a kind of legal gambler under the policeman's very nose as formerly, although the law was very sharp on smaller betting affairs.

"The kinds of sport, the object of which was to torture animals, in which our noble ancestors delighted, have passed away. The poor tame deer is no longer started to be worried to death by dogs and dandies. The fox is no longer preserved for the like vile purpose. The hypocritical laws which prevented a scientific and humane investigation in the science of physiology on living things, previously made non-sentient by anodynes, but that winked at every practical cruelty to animals in sport and butchery which inflicted a hundred times the agony on the animals, have been repealed. Even the sport of wounding or killing birds or hares has gone out of fashion, principally by the influence of our kind lady writers, who never had much sympathy with it. The gourmand has been obliged to give up his dainty dish of skylarks, as singing birds are now completely protected by law."

" Again the lark throbs music from the sky,
While many songsters join in harmony.
Blackbird and thrush their chorus thrill
O'er wood and field and rill.
The goldfinch goes untrapped by London cad
And robin sings to make the poet glad.

" We hold still to useful manly sport in the interior regions of Africa and Asia where the wild animal, dangerous to human life, still exists in very small numbers. These animals will no doubt soon become extinct except for the few preserved as specimens in our Zoological Gardens. The noble lion as we now know him is a very tame creature.

" The sports and competitions which develop the human form and establish health, and which are older than the Olympian games, will always practically exist, although their forms may vary. The ball of healthy sport will still fly through the air, whether it be thrown by hand or struck by a bat or other implement, or kicked or pushed along. The swimmer still will swim ; the boatman row and enjoy the exhilarating pleasure even as in prehistoric times. A thousand years in the popularity of healthy sports shows little change. Activity of body combined with activity of mind fits man perfectly for his daily work of life and for all the wholesome conditions that healthy society demands."

TASTE.—The doctor asked if the poet thought

there had been any advance in public taste during the past fifty years.

" As regards our present advance in taste this has no doubt been real," the poet replied. " Popular taste as we find it is very much influenced by contemporary society. The artist is a sensitive creature, who needs encouragement and public approbation to realize the best work of which his genius is capable. At the same time if he is dependent upon his art for his daily bread he is bound to follow the conventionalities of fashion. At the end of the last century the money-making public had its mind puffed up with a thirst for gold-finding, bubble-company promoting and self advertisement. Contemporary with this, fashionable frauds progressed at so high a rate, that the wealthy were often the dishonest. Following this very popular factor of fashionable life, art being superfluous to mere existence, the artist had to depend on the patronage of wealth, and his art, like many of the owners of wealth, was wanting in integrity.

" In painting, the vantage ground gained by mediaeval classical art was lost upon the mushroom men and women who could not comprehend it. The sensational was more to their taste, and therefore prevailed. Self-constituted critics flattered the non-artistic patron in art, perhaps to pull a bad artist forward for a consideration, and bad drawing, with smudginess in colouring mixed up

with gaudy contrasts, was held up to public approbation under the assumed title of impressionism or aestheticism. With sounder modern laws we have more integrity enforced in our business transactions and more integrity in art necessarily follows. The artist is real only as he is true to nature, and great only in proportion as he follows the true, the poetic, the sublime and the humorous.

" With statuary, particularly in Italy, classical art was never lost, but moved onwards in anatomical fidelity even until the present time (1950), at which it has possibly arrived at its highest grade in truthful execution.

" Literature towards the end of the last century followed closely in the footsteps of painting, being strictly influenced by the times. The novel was the only book popularly read, and in this the true life painting of a Dickens, Eliot or Brontë was nearly lost. The sensational and artificial only being successful, that is, what was natural to the parvenu, and, following the times, most exalted by the fashionable critics. For a long period one ideal greatly prevailed. This was a sentimental description of a loose, sensual, immodest fool of a girl, who was easily influenced to forfeit her chastity to some unprincipled wealthy vagabond. After this the girl was made to turn modest, sensible and goody-goody, and she argued her case in sentimental mock-philosophy—a

living falsehood to the experience of poor humanity. Little that was real or true to life or average morality or sustained character was demanded by the idle reading public. The artificial and unreal were alone popular, which was quite consistent with the vogue of the prevailing artificial society. These things are changed and truth is sought, yet in our present age virtue is more free from much of its former prudishness and disguised falsehood. In the last century the fashionable world pretended to be shocked if a writer named any part of the human body between the neck and the ankles, although his or her writing might embrace the most immoral sensual ideas he or she could conceive. Now that more truly moral writers are popular, we have proportionally less hypocrisy over words to represent natural things, and more virtue.

"Taste in architecture and furniture has been much influenced by two factors—the application of machinery to our materials and the introduction of Japanese art. By the application of machinery neat solid work was produced in place of plastering to imitate stone, veneering on wood, and the false representation of precious woods and marbles in painting. The variety of forms of articles of taste followed the influence of Japanese and mediaeval quaintness. The work was at first left square and hard by omitting the graphic bits of natural imitative carving and inlaying, common

to Japanese art work, which satisfied the desire for minute inspection after the eye was satisfied with its first impression of general effect by form. The Japanese taste-method combined with pure mediaeval art conceptions and mechanical skill is now general. The jumble drawing-room of our ancestral ladies, which was not without taste, is now advanced only by better artistic feeling."

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.—"Has our race really developed during the past half-century?" the doctor asked.

"This must be as you like to take it, always permitting that the fittest survives. We may take the working classes for special consideration. When hand work was general, demanding great strength of body and constitution, man naturally developed in muscular strength, and as the strongest, most powerful man was the fittest, he could gain the highest wages and his family could survive in hard times. When, later, machinery became general, we had to estimate two factors of work—man and machine. Now, as the machine could be worked as well by the little man as the big man, and the wages were equal for the same amount of work, the one could as easily support his family as the other, so that it soon became noticeable that in large manufacturing towns the stature of men decreased and fell much below the average of those of the country agricultural districts, where hard labour

still required the powerful man. Our average stature, therefore, decreased in large towns, but by our systematic training and improved sanitary conditions the personal vigour of the man became greater. It was formerly a severe loss to the vigour of our race that the strongest, best developed men of the people were taken for soldiers and sailors. This has of course ceased with the abolition of warfare, but even in this before warfare ceased, light men of sturdy constitution were taken for the cavalry, and found more effective than big men, as this permitted greater rapidity of movement, and endurance of the horse when he had to carry less weight.

"With regard to the man + machine theory, it is now argued in some of our popular journals, that the decrease in the stature of our men, where there is sufficient vigour to perform the necessary work, is a very economical survival of the fittest. If the man is smaller, relative space in which he moves is greater, and there is further greater economy in clothing and the necessary amount of food. It is shown that agility of limbs and activity of the brain in all its functions may be maintained without a large amount of flesh. In fact the man may outwardly resemble the boy of seven or eight of the last century in the proportion of brain and body. Instances in nature are given. The proportion of brain to flesh and bone in the man early in the century

was about 1 brain to 60 flesh, that in a boy at eight about 1 brain to 30 flesh. Taking another instance, ex-mammalian, with a singing or talking bird, such as the canary, who is relatively to its size a very vigorous creature, who can sing, fly, build its nest cleverly, search for food with great application in its native state, the proportion is about the same as that of the boy, which is evidently sufficient to support the great energy required.

"Repeated slurs in our popular journals upon the decreasing size of mechanics, who are nearly all machinists in large towns, has caused little men to form a special trade union society, which has a large number of members. In *The Watchmaker* for June, 1950, we find an advertisement that the Fosfo-radio Watch Company of Coventry is taking on 1,000 machine hands for their new works. To this the 'Min-Man-Soc." have offered the full number of men from their society, all to be of the stature of about 1·5 metre, that is, about fifty-nine inches of our old measures. This arrangement the company has accepted. The work of the Fosfo-radio Watch Company is to make a watch of the ordinary size, the back of which forms a reading lamp at pleasure. In the works all lifting and conveying is done by machinery which is common now in all factories.

"The man + machine human reduction of stature is historically very curious, as we find

the average civilized human stature increased from B.C. 1500 to the middle of the nineteenth century. We find evidence of the early shorter stature from the skeletons and coffins of Egypt, Assyria, Greece and Rome. The celebrated Cleopatra, probably an average woman, was 1·4 metres, or four feet seven in height, old measure, and now in the twentieth century the average has gone back to early times. Our aristocracy, if we may still so call them, and the country folk, are taller than the town workers, but there appears to be at present a strong consensus of opinion through fashion's conventionalities, that small ladies of perfect form are prettier than tall ladies, and as there is socially, also, a strong tendency to uniformity of race, the upper classes are diminishing at present in stature. In a paper read at the Permanent Advance Society in May, 1950, it was stated that statistics showed that in about two centuries, under present conditions, we should probably arrive at the 'metre-man-era,' which would entail room enough in the world for a much larger population, particularly in our crowded cities."

DRESS.—"I will ask you, my dear Theodore, to tell me something about clothing. It varied very much according to fashion, with ladies particularly, at the early part of the century."

"Clothing has not varied much with men during the present half century," the poet replied,

"except that man has abandoned the ugly, unhealthy boxing of the head by a hat, which we now laugh at so much in old prints, which was derisively called at the time 'the chimney-pot.' You notice we wear now soft, light, ventilated felt hats. These were worn a little at the commencement of the century. We have also abandoned the hard starched shirt and collar for the soft vegetable silkoid ones you see. There is little other change of fashion for men other than that they grow their beards naturally, except for trimming. These were scraped off with a barbarous instrument termed a *razor* at the commencement of the century and earlier.

"The ladies' dresses, you see, are quite different from those in the early century times. In 1900 the ladies were about two hundred years behind the men in dress reform in the direction of simplicity. That is, relatively to about the time of Charles the Second, when both sexes were equally vainly dressed. Some lady writers made the observation that a man made himself felt by his personality, not in any case by his dress. Indeed, a sensible man felt it an indignity to attribute the power of his presence in any way to dress, or to feel any desire to be complimented upon it. We may, of course, except the public and private fops, who are looked down upon by every man of intellect. From early in the century, a gentleman and his servant have been dressed alike.

With ladies, dress was formerly made to indicate her social position according to her own ideas.

" ' The European Ladies' Dress Reform Association ' of 1920 set forth the idea that a lady should be distinguished by her personality and not by her dress, just as a man is. Her intellect was asserted to be equal to that of a man, and equally capable of marking its own importance. Therefore the object to be attained by dress was decided to be, as with a man, a matter of pure convenience. All our most wealthy ladies joined the ' Dress Reform Association,' and the plain yet tasty dress you see was fixed by reason. This you may notice nearly resembles in tone of colouring that of man, and it can be removed with equal facility to that of a man. After all necessary conventionalities were duly considered, the grace of the female form, the moderate length and dressing of her hair, and the length of her skirt were fixed by a conventional rule. The simplicity of her attire has now become as pronounced as that of man. You may particularly notice no jewellery or gaudy ornaments are worn. In fact they are now considered as a mark of mental degradation."

" What has become of the diamonds ? " the doctor asked.

" They are very useful in the arts," the poet replied. " We have the fine old frumpish dresses preserved in our museums of the fashions of differ-

ent periods, which the ladies laugh at more than the men. These are very interesting, as showing stages of advancement until woman was free of outward marks of distinction formerly devised to satisfy her vanity, but really with men it showed her inferior mental position as compared with themselves."

THE HUMAN FORM.—"I do not think the dress of the last century," the doctor said, "was so much in need of reform as the disposition of the ladies to disfigure themselves by altering their natural figures to what was, I suppose, to them an ideal form. This caused the ladies to have indigestion, pimples and very abnormal swellings towards the extremities of their bodies."

"You speak of tight-lacing to reduce the natural waist. I should have mentioned that this was the first matter taken in hand by the 'Ladies' Dress Reform Association.' In the beginning of the century the female form was undoubtedly made ugly by fashion's conventionalities. Artists in Europe could not find a model with any of the lines of grace and beauty left which belong naturally and superlatively to the female figure. This is clearly indicated by the statuary and paintings that have come down to us of the beginning of the century, however much the artist has tried to smooth off the corset wrinkles and defects of his model. But we may take consolation, nevertheless, that even this deformity was an advance

from an earlier period, say, of the reign of good Queen Bess or later, when the whole upper part of the body, including the breasts, was squeezed into the form of a flower-pot, which appeared to stand on a stiff pedestal formed of the nearly dislocated hips. In our present ladies' dress (1950) a young damsel shows delicately her natural form beneath her simple clothing just as it is developed by gymnastic exercise or particularly by swimming. The brilliant flush of health shows that her digestive organs are free and that every muscle of her body moves to the music of her graceful activity. See, the statuary by our living artists is now as perfect in representing lovely woman's form as in the days of Praxiteles. These models are taken from young women in nations where they have not ancestrally borne burdens to over-develop the hips. We fully realize now of woman that—

> "Thy beauty is in thy natural form,
> Thy taste in that which least disguiseth it.
> Behold— . . . . . "

## THE LAST CHAPTER

THE séance just recorded was interrupted by the landlord's broker insisting on making an inventory of the goods in our drawing-room. The poet was awakened from his hypnotic sleep.

Before the doctor left Bloomsbury he pleaded to us to pay the brokers out for the landlady and grant him five more sittings with the poet, as he had other most important matters of great value to mankind to bring forward. The circumstances given in the first chapter of the state of our funds did not permit this.

I have now only the doctor's notes of the subjects he intended to introduce. They run—

"General advancement of science on many points."

"Our knowledge of and communication with other worlds."

"Improvements in mind; details of social union (deferred)."

"Suppression of pain and elimination of the failings of age."

"Advances in electro-photography."

The doctor said: "To take the last subject alone, you know that the Röntgen rays, lately discovered, make it possible to see through a hand or a foot. I have no doubt if you would allow me time and means to put it to the poet, that he would tell you that in 1950, by further advances, you might see right through such a man as himself, or even an advanced creature like myself."

Dr. Aerius Pott assured me and my friends that we lost the only chance we might ever have of ascertaining the advances to be made in all the above interesting subjects in the next half century. Sam Braham, my fellow lodger, told him that with the documents before us, of which we had been told the contents, we should have quite enough to think about as it was, for a few years to come.

While I was editing Dr. Aerius Pott's papers I had a strong feeling that I ought to see how the poet was getting on after he left the doctor. I felt sure that when he first entered the doctor's service he was quite hard up. I could not see now how he could make his way, after his mind had experienced so severe a strain under hypnotism.

I found him in Fleet Street as he was returning from a hopeless morning walk, in which he had not been able to sell one of his poems. The cloth-

ing we had given him had been disposed of excepting a fairly respectable neck-tie. He had not yet regained the original shabbiness in which we first saw him. As I went up to him I could see he tried to slip away from me, but I called to him, and he stopped.

"Hard up?" I said.

"Yes," he replied, "and I feel ashamed to appear in rags again after you have been so kind as to clothe me. *Mais—il faut vivre.*"

"Let me know what you have been doing since you left us three weeks ago," I asked.

"I have had two commissions: one to write a fashionable song to a doleful tune which I was asked to write as morbid as possible, and I believe I pleased the publisher. For this I had ten shillings. I had also to write two and a half inches of poetry for the tail piece to an article in a magazine, for which I was paid the scale price, of half-a-crown an inch, and I have sold one poem for five shillings. I have spent the money."

"I wanted to see you," I said, "fearing your prospects, and to try to help you if possible. I want you now to accept five shillings for bread as an earnest."

He opened his wide clear eyes, the pure whites of which glistened as they always do in extreme hunger, and said: "I cannot take it! I cannot repay it, I fear."

"It is a gift," I said.

"No," he replied. "It shall be a loan which I will work out if I have life and the chance to do it."

"Well," I said, "as you will, but come to me if you need a friend."

He thanked me in tears and hid his face.

I knew well how little he could live upon, so I did not trouble to see him again for a week. When I met him again he went through nearly the same formalities, which ended with a loan of another five shillings. I thought I would repeat this kindness every week as long as I was studying in town, forbearing to indulge in little private enjoyments to save for it.

The third week that I met the poet, Dr. Aerius Pott's papers were nearly ready for publication, of which I told him, saying they might realize something perhaps which might be set to his account. He replied that it was quite hopeless, and it would now be too late, his dreams ought not to be published. Hypnotism had cast a gloom over his mind, so that he only saw shadows in our present life, not its brighter parts. He said he was watching for me when I came up. I thought this was for the customary five shillings, and immediately dived my hand into my pocket. He held my hand and said "No!" He had just sold all his poetry worth having, ten pieces in all, for twenty-five shillings. As they were unsigned he thought the editor might resell them

to an aspirant to the Laureate, or to some other fellow, who might want to gain popularity. He gave me ten shillings to repay the sums I had lent him, which he said were more than mere loans to him, as my kind sympathy had been more than meat and drink to his poor lost mind. He could not abstract a young man's pocket money without experiencing a feeling of dishonour, as he knew I needed my pleasures. He was glad now he could repay the money and feel sure he need borrow no more. He could also pay his landlady, who was nearly as poor as himself. He said he was now going to get a good dinner.

"And after?" I replied.

"I am going quite away. I have thought of something which is better than starvation in this great city, where I am not wanted. Do not look sad or doubtful. I will write to you shortly so that you may know I am in earnest."

"Come and see me often," I said. "There is hope left."

"Not for me!" he replied.

"Why should weeds o'erspread the land,
Where the useful corn might stand?
Weeds that flower in nature wild,
Observed alone by Nature's child.
Where is the home, the place for me,
Where our aims are all utility?
Spin and weave and forge and roll,
Nought for thought, and nought for soul;
Out of use—and out of time,
Nought for learning, nought for rhyme."

In sadness I turned my head aside as I shook hands with the poet in parting. His eyes looked wild, his face woe-begone. I felt sympathy with what I considered his unappreciated genius, but could only reply "Peace to your immortal soul."

The following day Constable Nonest, of the A1 division, brought me a note wrapped up in a neck-tie, which I recognized as a discarded one I had given to the poet. It contained the poet's last words, written in faded ink and blotted with tears, so as to be barely decipherable. The constable who found it reported—

"I saw in the gleam of the gas-light through a thin fog the dim outline of an emaciated human form, who appeared almost to fly, in throwing himself over the stone parapet of Waterlow Bridge. I ran to the spot and looked over and saw the same dim outline of the figure, which looked like a shadow floating down the river. This was at the turn of the high tide, in which floods from recent storms had swelled the stream, so that nothing could arrest the shadowy body until it floated into the great ocean to be lost for ever. The parcel with the note in it was left on the stone seat near the spot from which the poor soul had departed."

When I opened the note I read as follows: "Kindest and most simple hearted of men. The

last consolation of my poor faint life was your sympathy. I leave the living as I could not carry the burden of a useless life any longer, to impress sorrow only upon my fellow sojourners. Let me rest in your memory as the dream of one who loved the world much more than he was able to express it. I give you my last words, written weakly, because I am sick at heart, and losing myself in oblivion only to think that—

" A shadow past as t'were a dream,
A poor weak myth has gone ;
'Twas but a ripple on life's stream,
Unfelt and wept by none.

" THE. FOX."

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